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## The Mysterious Play

Vol. 16: ASSASSIN

STORY AND ART BY **Yuu Watase**

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The Mysterious Play

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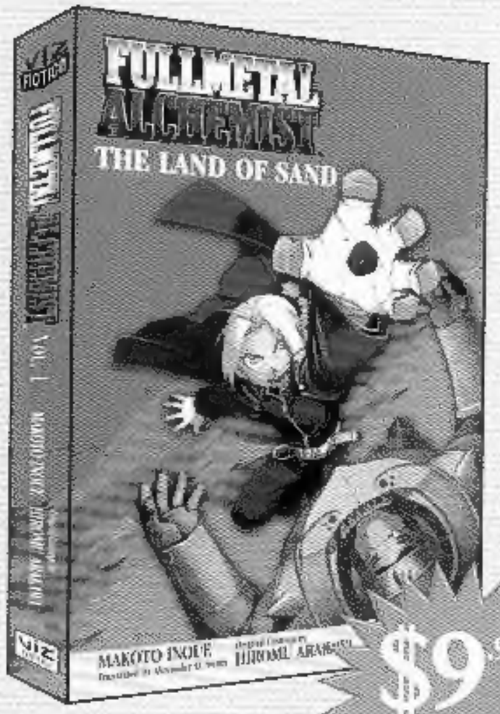


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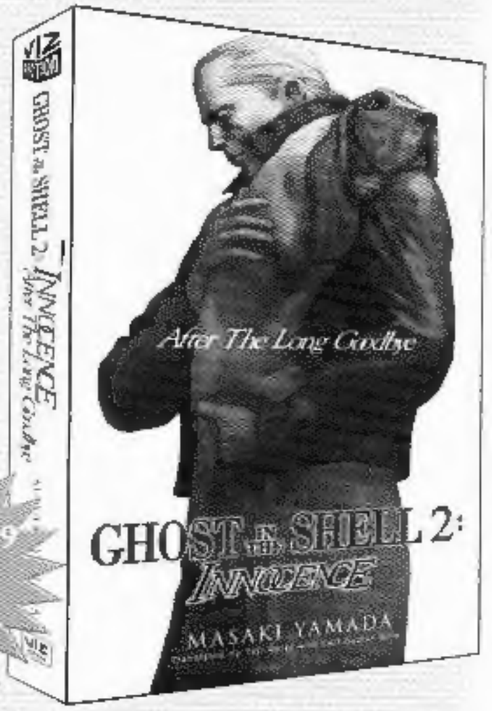


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*VOL. 16: ASSASSIN*

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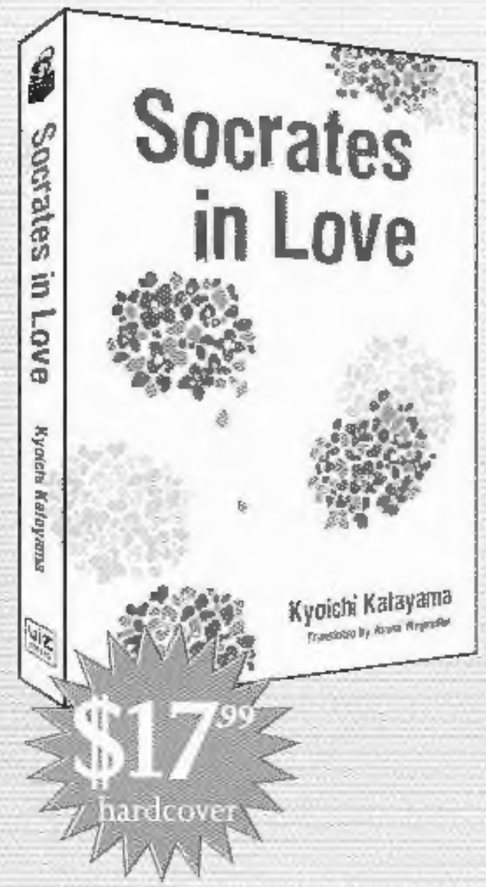


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FUSHIGI YÛGI
THE MYSTERIOUS PLAY
VOL. 16: ASSASSIN
SHÔJO EDITION

STORY AND ART BY YUU WATASE

Editor's Note: At the author's request, the spelling of Ms. Watase's first name has been changed from "Yû," as it has appeared on previous VIZ publications, to "Yuu."


English Adaptation/William Flanagan
Touch-up & Lettering/Bill Spicer
Touch-up Assistance/Walden Wong
Design/Hidemi Sahara
Editor/Frances E. Wall

Managing Editor/Annette Roman
Director of Production/Noboru Watanabe
Vice President of Publishing/Alvin Lu
Sr. Director of Acquisitions/Rika Inouye
Vice President of Sales & Marketing/Liza Coppola
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PARENTAL ADVISORY
FUSHIGI YÛGI is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains realistic and fantasy violence and sexual situations.

## STORY THUS FAR

In the winter of her third year of middle school, Miaka was whisked away into the pages of a mysterious old book called *The Universe of the Four Gods* and began a dual existence as an ordinary schoolgirl in modern Japan and a priestess of the god Suzaku in a fictional version of ancient China. Miaka fell in love with Tamahome, one of the Celestial Warriors of Suzaku responsible for the protection of the priestess. Miaka's best friend Yui was also sucked into the world of the book and became the priestess of Seiryu, the bitter enemy of Suzaku and Miaka. After clashing repeatedly with the corrupt and vengeful Seiryu Celestial Warriors, Miaka summoned Suzaku and vanquished her enemies, reconciled with Yui, and saved the earth from destruction. In the end, Suzaku granted Miaka one impossible wish: for Tamahome to be reborn as a human in the real world so that the two lovers would never again be separated.

Miaka enters Yotsubadai High School and plans to settle into a normal life with her beloved Tamahome, who is now named Taka Sukunami. But Suzaku returns to give Miaka a new mission: She must re-enter *The Universe of the Four Gods* and find seven special stones that contain Taka's memories from his former life as Tamahome…or her soulmate could disappear forever! After explaining this new task, Suzaku takes up residence in Miaka's watch, and with the help of the reunited Warriors of Suzaku, Miaka and Taka are able to recover three of the stones. But a demon-god named Tenkô keeps terrorizing Miaka and Taka and says he will stop at nothing to thwart their quest! One of Tenkô's servants, Lian, who is posing as an exchange student at Miaka's school, seems able to hypnotize all the students and he uses this power to attack Miaka and to take over the student council. Now, Tenkô has invaded the world of the book as well as the real world, and Taka's future seems to be in grave peril….

*The Universe of the Four Gods is based on ancient Chinese legend, but Japanese pronunciation of Chinese names differs slightly from their Chinese equivalents. Here is a short glossary of the Japanese pronunciation of the Chinese names in this graphic novel:*

| CHINESE | JAPANESE | PERSON OR PLACE | MEANING |
|---|---|---|---|
| Feng-Qi | Hôki | Empress | Phoenix Beauty |
| Mang-Chen | Bôshin | Crown Prince | Spreading Dawn |
| Shi-Hang Lian | Shigyo Ren | Transfer student | Worship-Journey Collect |
| Yang | Yô | A monster clan | Illness |
| Lian-Fang | Renhô | A monster | Collect Beauty |
| Lu-Hou | Rokô | Nuriko's brother | Backbone Lord |
| Liu-Chuan | Ryûen | Nuriko's given name | Willowy Beauty |
| Mei-Song | Miisû | A monster | Demon on High |
| Hong-Nan | Konan | Southern Kingdom | Crimson South |
| Rong-Yang | Eiyô | The Capital | Glorious Heaven |
| Bei-Jia | Hokkan | Northern Kingdom | Armored North |
| Lai Lai | Nyan Nyan | A demigod | Nanny |
| Tai Yi-Jun | Taiitsukun | An Oracle | Preeminent Person |
| Daichi-san | Daikyokuzan | A mountain | Greatest Mountain |

THE GOD SUZAKU IS INSIDE MY WATCH RIGHT NOW.

HEY! WHAT'S THAT RED LIGHT SUPPOSED T' BE?

MOST OF PEOPLES IN PALACE ARE FINE. *IT BIG RELIEF!*

IT'S ALMOST TIME TO GO BACK!

!!

SORRY ABOUT THIS, GUYS. WE'LL BE BACK ...

WE'RE ABLE TO COME HERE THROUGH SUZAKU'S POWER... BUT AFTER AN HOUR OF TIME ELAPSES IN THE OTHER WORLD, WE HAVE TO RETURN THERE.

...TO FIND THAT FOURTH STONE!

I CAN SPEND TIME ALONE WITH TAKA NOW!

WE'VE GOT THE THIRD STONE!!

PLEASE COME BACK QUICKLY, MIAKA YŪKI AND TAKA SUKUNAMI...

...AND I WILL FINISH YOU!

I was so surprised that we're already on Volume 16! Yay! That's normal for shônen manga, but for shôjo manga, it's like...whoa! Yay! Ha! What am I talking about!? Hello everybody, this is Watase. In the background, the soundtrack for Miaka and the Seven Warriors is playing. But this isn't a CD. It's a tape where we've put a whole bunch of music from a variety of sources recorded off of CD. I'm lonely for my TV! By the way, have you picked up all nine of the "Character Vocal Collection" CDs yet? Watase loves them all!!! The lyrics are great... the music is wonderful! Everything about them! ☺ I think it would be great if they were collected somehow! A CD box set would be just fantastic!

Now, to continue the story about the Taiwan signing... It ended without incident. (Oh, yeah! I received quite a lot of hand-arranged bouquets!) There were some other things that made for fond memories, too.

I was invited to the home of Mr. Xie, a movie director. The interior design of his home was amazing! It was such a clever use of limited space! He lives in an old, traditional Chinese home, and I learned so much! I also got some tea out of the deal! ☺ The president of Daran Publishing was kind enough to give me a seal that he received from Mr. Xie. I was shocked! It's a seal that was made by an artisan named Yù from the Ch'ing (Manchu) dynasty, and usually only serious collectors of cultural objects own stuff like it! It's really valuable! ☺ So right now I'm keeping it very safe! Oh, also Daran Publishing took me to their offices to see how they do things. Everybody was smiling, and I really felt at home!

I got several soundtracks from the animation company! I also received six famous Taiwanese CDs!

OH, YEAH! HERE!
NO... THAT WASN'T A COMMENT ON THE PROCESS OF MAKING BABIES...
FWAPP
IT'S A TICKET. REMEMBER WE PROMISED THAT ONCE WE GOT THE THIRD STONE, WE'D GO SOMEWHERE.
RIGHT AFTER WE MADE THE PROMISE YESTERDAY, I WENT TO A TRAVEL AGENCY AND PICKED THEM UP.
FOR TOMORROW? SATURDAY AND SUNDAY?

TAKA... I'M SO GLAD THAT WE FOUND THE THIRD STONE!
YEAH, NOT ONLY THAT, BUT I MUST SAY THAT I'M REALLY IMPRESSED WITH EMPEROR HOTOHORI.
EH?
IT'S KIND OF NICE... PARENTS AND A CHILD. I NOTICED HOW HOTOHORI'S EYES SHONE WHEN HE WAS THINKING ABOUT HIS WIFE AND CHILD.
A LITTLE WHIMSICAL.
HIS MAJESTY, FENG-QI, AND LITTLE MANG-CHEN...
MIAKA! WE GOTTA GO MAKE BABIES AS QUICK AS WE CAN!
JIK

LISTEN, YOU TWO...

WHAT!? WE'RE INSIDE *YOUR* HOUSE, YUI!?

YUI!?

YOU SUDDENLY APPEAR IN MY ROOM, AND THEN YOU PUT ON THIS SCENE...

EYAAAAH!!

I MADE SURE TO KEEP THE SCROLL WITH ME.

BUT THE MONSTER... LIAN... GOT AWAY.

BUT I DOUBT THAT IT WILL MAKE HIM GIVE UP.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT! ARE YOU OKAY, YUI!?

*THANK YOU!!*

YEAH. I THINK THIS SCROLL IS A WEAKNESS FOR LIAN.

SURE!

I KNOW THAT AS LONG AS WE'RE TOGETHER, WE'LL WIN EVERY TIME!

TAKA!

YOU THOUGHT WE'D GET THE THIRD STONE THAT QUICKLY? EVEN KNOWING THAT LIAN AND THE MONSTERS MIGHT TRY TO PREVENT IT?

AND WE'LL FIND THE FOURTH STONE EASILY, TOO!

!!

TAKA!

MIAKA...

JUST KEEP ON LOVING ME FOREVER, OKAY?

UH... UM...

WHAT'S WITH THE BAT?

SHNK

GOOD MORNING!

WE'D BETTER GET TO HOMEROOM FAST! BY THE WAY, DID YOU DO YOUR MATH HOME-WORK?

KYŌ... MOTO... ?

WHAT'LL I DO WITH YOU? I GUESS WE'LL BOTH HAVE TO COPY FROM SOMEBODY.

MORNING, MIAKA!

WH-- WHAT !?



YEAH!

HANG IN THERE! ONCE SCHOOL IS OVER TOMORROW, WE'LL TAKE OUR TRIP! I THINK YOU'LL ENJOY THE PLACE WE'RE GOING TO!

BUT I'LL LEND YOU THIS BAT SO YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THOSE WEIRD GUYS.

I'D LIKE TO GO WITH YOU TO SCHOOL TOMORROW, BUT I HAVE TO DO A FOLLOW UP VISIT AT THE HOSPITAL.

REALLY?

YU! !?

IS THAT BLOOD ON THE BAT?

YOTSUBADAI HIGH SCHOOL

I WON'T LET A GUY WIN JUST BECAUSE HE'S GOT A HANDSOME FACE!

LIAN MESMER-IZED EVERYONE AT SCHOOL.

MIAKA!

THAT'S THE SPIRIT, MIAKA!

HYAH! HYAH !!

RIGHT! GO, MIAKA!

SUNDAYS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE FOR GOING ON DATES! YOU GOT IT GOOD, HAVING A CUTE HIGH-SCHOOL GIRL LIKE YUI TO GO OUT WITH.

DYED HIS HAIR LIGHT BROWN.

WHAT ARE YOU SO DOWN FOR, KEISUKE?

AWW... TOMORROW'S SUNDAY, BUT I HAVE TO GO TO A CLUB EVENT.

WHO CARES? THE TWO OF YOU ARE DATING, EVEN IF IT IS OUT OF SYMPATHY.

DATING? WELL, MAYBE... BUT IT'S ALL ONE SIDED, ME DOING ALL THE WORK...

MUMBLE, GRUMBLE...

MIAKA AND I ARE GOING ON A VACATION.

HUH!?

HEY!! THERE YOU GUYS ARE!

WELL? HAVE YOU EVEN KISSED !?!

"SYMPATHY"!? HOW DARE YOU!?!

KEISUKE... SORRY, BUT I CAN'T COME TO THE CLUB EVENT TOMORROW.

AND LIAN ISN'T HERE.

UM...

1-A

EH? I THOUGHT THEY ALL WERE MAD AT ME!

HUH?

ME TOO! AND THE NEW SMAP ALBUM...

Y-YEAH...

EVERYONE ELSE IS HERE, RIGHT? I GOT A MESSAGE THAT LIAN CALLED IN WITH A COLD.

REALLY?

HE ISN'T HERE!

IT'S EASY TO CATCH COLDS IN SUMMER. BE CAREFUL.

AND HE CAN STAY AWAY AS LONG AS HE WANTS!

MAYBE HE WAS BADLY DAMAGED WHEN THE UNIVERSE OF THE FOUR GODS SCROLL HIT HIM.

MY FRIENDS ARE ACTING NORMAL. IT'S GREAT!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! NOT A SINGLE BAD THING HAPPENED TODAY!

OKAY... THAT ENDS THE ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY.

RATTLE RATTLE

TAKA OUGHT TO BE WAITING FOR ME AT SHINJUKU STATION NOW.

THEN THE TWO OF US...

I EVEN MANAGED TO LEAVE MY OVERNIGHT BAG IN A LOCKER THERE

OKAY, KYŌMOTO... I'LL SEE YOU! BYE-BYE!

GRABB

LISTEN, BROTHER. DID I SAY ANYTHING TO THAT EFFECT? NO, I DIDN'T.

STOMP

WHAT'S THAT, YOU JERK!? YOU'RE PLANNING TO HAVE YOUR LECHEROUS WAY WITH MIAKA !?!

I HAVEN'T HAD A GIRLFRIEND SINCE MY SECOND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL, AND WE ONLY HELD HANDS!

YOU MIGHT WANT TO KEEP DETAILS LIKE THAT TO YOURSELF!

WAAHH HHHH...

EXCUSE ME...

HEY! TAKA!! AS A RANKING MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL RESEARCH CLUB, I WILL NOT ALLOW YOUR IMPURE, LACIVIOUS...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!? YOU NEVER ASKED WHEN YOU SIGNED ME UP FOR THE CLUB! BYE!

YOU'VE GOT A DIRTY MIND.

I'LL BE GOING NOW...

IT'S THE SAME THING! YOU'LL TAKE MIAKA TO SOME SEEDY HOTEL IN SOME UNKNOWN LOCATION AND... AND... OH, I CAN'T EVEN THINK OF IT!

MIGHT YOU BE MR. KEISUKE YŪKI?

I WAS HOPING TO JOIN THE HISTORICAL RESEARCH CLUB. YOU *ARE* THE VICE PRESIDENT, AREN'T YOU?

YEAH?

I-IT'S ...

EH?

YOU CAN'T! NOT UNTIL YOU READ THE ANNOUNCE-MENT WRITTEN ON THE BLACK-BOARD.

SKRRT

KILL MIAKA YŪKI!

SHI-HANG LIAN!

DON'T LET HER GET AWAY!

HE MUST BE SOMEWHERE IN THE SCHOOL!

LIAN!

SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS TOO!?

"TAKING A HUMAN SOUL AND MAKING IT MY PUPPET IS A SPECIAL SKILL OF MINE."

FROM A PLACE WHERE HE CAN SEE ALL OF THE STUDENTS IN SCHOOL...!

WHERE? WHERE IS HE CONTROLLING THEM FROM?

I KNOW!

THE NORTH WING!

KYUN

EEE YAAA AH!!

EVEN STUDENTS FROM OTHER CLASSES !?!

COME ON! STAND UP!

AAA AAA AH!

GRMP

THE STUDENT BODY PRESI-DENT...

..WANTS YOU UP ON THE NORTH WING ROOF.

TAKA!!

ARE YOU ALL BEING CON-TROLLED BY LIAN !?

DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND ?

HEY! LET ME GO!

THE PAGER TAKA GAVE ME!

KAK

KAK

KAK

KA-TUNK

MY WATCH !!

W-WAIT !!

KA-CHIK

!!

GRNN

YOU WERE CARE-LESS.

WITH THE GOD SUZAKU RESIDING INSIDE ...

STOP IT!!

...

FINE.

MR. PRESIDENT, WE'VE BROUGHT MIAKA YŪKI TO YOU.

DID YOU ENJOY YOUR DAY OF PEACE?

THINK OF IT AS A GIFT FROM ME... OUT OF PITY FOR YOU.

YOU COWARD!!

WHAT'S SO FUN ABOUT CONTROLLING EVERYONE IN THE SCHOOL!?

OH, THIS SCHOOL IS JUST THE BEGINNING. ONCE I'VE TAKEN CARE OF YOU AND TAKA SUKUNAMI, I WILL MOVE ON TO THE NEXT SCHOOL.

AND WITH ALL YOU ID OTIC CHILDREN UNDER MY CONTROL, I WILL TAKE CHARGE OF ALL OF YOUR SOULS! WITH THAT IN MIND, YŪKI...

KUWA-HARA !?

THEY NEVER CHANGE! I KNOW JUST HOW WEAK, FOOLISH AND LOW HUMANS ARE!

IF SO, WHAT OF IT? DO YOU THINK THAT *HUMANS* ARE SUCH WONDERFUL CREATURES?

YOU'RE A COWARD!! YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A MONSTER IN HUMAN CLOTHES!

HMPH. MONSTER ?

EVEN THOUGH EACH INDIVIDUAL IS POWERLESS, THEY GANG UP TO HUNT WEAKER PREY... THEY SEPARATE ONE LONE VICTIM FROM THE PACK AND DO VIOLENCE ON HIM WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT!

WHILE HURLING ABUSE, THEY MERRILY CHASE THEIR QUARRY TO THE EDGE OF A CLIFF! NOT ONE EVEN CONSIDERS THE FEELINGS OF THEIR PREY!

!?

THE GOD SUZAKU AND THE FOUR GODS' DIVINE POWERS HAVE GROWN WEAK!

NOW TO YOUR REMOVAL...

EVEN IF YOU OPENED THE SCROLL NOW, YOU COULD NOT ENTER. I MUST REPAY YOU FOR ALL THE TROUBLE YOU HAVE CAUSED ME.

YOU WILL NOW GO OVER THE EDGE OF THE BUILDING FOR ME.

I SHALL REMOVE TAKA SUKUNAMI FROM YOUR HEART.

I SAID BEFORE, DID I NOT, THAT I CAN CONTROL THE HUMAN SOUL?

!?

AFTER ALL, HE W LL DISAPPEAR SOON ANYWAY.

SHALL WE DESTROY YOUR RELAT ONSH.P WITH TAKA SUKUNAM ?

AND IN EXCHANGE, YOU WILL GIVE YOUR LOVE TO ME.

GWM

IN FACT, YOU WILL BECOME MY DOLL, MY TOY... FOREVER!!

I CAN'T TURN MY EYES AWAY!

I MUST NOT... LOOK AT HIS EYES!

"AS LONG AS WE'RE TOGETHER, WE'LL W.N EVERY TIME!"

I... CAN'T...

NO MATTER WHAT ATROCITIES THEY WITNESS, THEY ACT AS IF IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM... AS IF THEY CAN SIMPLY EXIST!

YET YOU CALL *ME* THE MONSTER! THEN *THEY* ARE, AS WELL! THESE EASILY MANIPULATED CREATURES, ALWAYS READY TO FOLLOW THE CROWD AS IF IT WERE NORMAL!

AND EVEN WHEN THEY CHASE THEIR PREY TO CERTAIN DEATH, THEY CANNOT WIN WITH GOOD GRACE!

A LOVING HEART? I SEE... YOU THINK THAT WE ARE WRONG, YES?

HM?

HMPH. INTERESTING. SINCE THAT IS WHAT YOU SAY, SHALL WE TEST IT?

!?

THAT ISN'T TRUE! I KNOW!! I'VE SEEN THE STRENGTH AND GENTILITY... THE LOVING HEART OF HUMANS!

MIAKA!!

TMP

TAKA SUKU-NAMI!

TAKA! YOU CAME FOR ME!

MIAKA...

EXCUSE ME A SECOND!

I CAME FOR YOU, MIAKA!

!!

!!

SHI-HANG LIAN, I DON'T KNOW HOW GOOD YOUR VISION IS...

...BUT YOU MIGHT WANT TO LOOK AROUND EVERY NOW AND AGAIN.

IF YOU AREN'T DEFEATED, THIS SCHOOL CAN'T EVER GO BACK TO NORMAL!

HMPH! YOU INTEND TO SEND ME OVER THE EDGE?

TAKA !!

...THE ONE TO FALL.

BUT *YOU* WILL BE...

!!

WAFF

THE SCROLL? YOU THINK YOU CAN DEFEAT ME WITH *THAT?*

HEH!

YOU! STAY AWAY FROM US!!

WAFT

!!

TAKA !!

TAKA !

!?

FFT

THE SCROLL... GOT HIM!

THAT... WAS CLOSE!

WEF

SHULUM

SHUUU

EE YAA AA !!

AA AAA AAA AAH !!

BUT... IF WE CAN'T, HOW CAN WE FIND YOUR STONES!?

THIS IS BAD. I DON'T SEE HOW WE'LL BE ABLE TO ENTER THE SCROLL NOW.

!!

ARE THESE THE PIECES OF YOUR WATCH?

WHAT'LL WE DO!?

GRMP

IF WE CAN'T RETURN TAMAHOME'S MEMORIES... THE ONES IN THE SEVEN STONES... TAKA WILL VANISH!!

TAKA !?

MY BODY IS... FADING AWAY!

AH!

...THEY VANISHED !

WHAT !?!

HUH? MIAKA?

!

WASN'T I JUST IN THE CLASS-ROOM?

OW! IT FEELS LIKE I GOT PUNCHED!

?

I'M... ON THE ROOF !?

MIAKA !!

WHEN SHI-HANG LIAN VANISHED, SO DID HIS POWER OVER THE SCHOOL!

KUWAHARA'S OKAY! THANK GOODNESS EVERYONE'S FEELING BETTER!

?

COME ON! CHEER UP, MIAKA!

A DREAM? I GUESS IT WAS, HUH? AFTER THE HORR BLE EVENTS AT THE SCHOOL, WE WENT DIRECTLY TO THE TRAIN STATION.

WA AA AH HH!

TAKA !!

IT'S NOTHING! REALLY, SHE'S FINE!

WE'LL FIND ANOTHER WAY TO GET INSIDE THE SCROLL.

LOOK AT THIS WAY... IF SUZAKU WERE COMPLETELY GONE, THEN I WOULD BE GONE TOO.

BUT LOOK, I'M RIGHT HERE, LIFE SIZE! I'M JUST FINE!

... YEAH.

NOOOO!!

TA... KA...

MIAKA... I'M SORRY!

FARE-WELL ...

MIAKA!

WHETHER YOU WANT IT OR NOT, WE'VE ARR VED AT THE STAT.ON. DO YOU WANT TO SLEEP UNTIL WE'VE REACHED THE END OF THE SHINKANSEN BULLET TRA N LINE?

!

AAAAAH!!

GASP

ZIP

WHAT!?! IN THE SAME BED!?

I TOLD YOU NOT TO TALK SO LOUD!

BY THE WAY, TAKA, WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT ROOMS?

WHAT ELSE??

WE'LL SLEEP IN THE SAME ROOM, OF COURSE!

WATCH OUT!!

WHUMP

SEE? HERE WE ARE!

THIS IS WHERE WE'RE STAYING.

AND LIAN IS NO LONGER AT THE SCHOOL.

IT'S TRUE. THAT WAS JUST A DREAM!

WE'RE FINALLY ON VACATION! LET'S FORGET ALL THE AWFUL THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED.

FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS, WE'LL NEVER BE APART.

YEAH!

TAKA IS HERE BESIDE ME!

WHO IS THAT WOMAN !?

MIAKA!? AND TAKA!?

I KNOW THAT VOICE!! KEISUKE !?!

BIG SUR-PRISE

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?

I'M SO SORRY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

Y- YEAH ...

!!

BONK

D-DID YOU JUST K- K-K-K-K- ...

MIIRU !!

TA-- TAKA !!

# CHAPTER NINETY
# MIRU

I don't know what I'm talking about, but I'll talk anyway! If you don't like it, just skip to the next page!

There's a book out that has info on both the anime and manga of FUSHIGI YŪGI! They probably shouldn't have done it. I drew new illustrations of Miaka and each of the Seven Celestial Warriors for it! ☺ It also gives you a look at a voicing session and includes interviews with the voice actors and has a whole lot of other stuff, so be sure to check it out! Speaking of the voice actors, I recently attended a recording session and had the privilege of meeting them all face-to-face! Nakago (Mr. Furusawa) and Miaka (Ms. Araki) were at the same meeting I was in, and hearing their voices, I'd say, "Whoa! Huh?" ☺ While we were at dinner (Chinese food), my editor leaned over to me and said that behind us, Nuriko (Ms. Sakamoto) was talking! What was really interesting was when we were playing Bingo... Motohori (Mr. Koyasu) was the master of ceremonies, but he turned to Mr. Midorikawa who had been eating the whole time and said, "Tamahome! Curb your gluttony," warning him in a very proper voice. Mr. Seki would call out in Chichiri's voice (you know, like when he says "daaa!"), "I'm rich! No da!" or, "Bingo! No da!" Maybe it was because, from where I was seated, I couldn't see the voice actors, but listening to them all chatting in character during their meal made me feel kind of weird (?) ☺ At the end, mad-fan Watase had some signboards prepared (but not enough for everybody)! I couldn't get everyone's signatures, but most were kind enough to sign them for me. A large number of them also added personal comments, which made me very happy!
I laughed when Mr. Ueda, who plays the twins, signed it "Big Brother!!" Mr. Koyasu and Mr. Midorikawa both signed for me in hiragana script even though they usually don't sign it this way, so it's especially valuable! Woo-hoo!

THAT'S A WRAP
This day was the last day of work for Episode 27. I cried during episode 27. I thought Mr. Midorikawa's acting (the way he conveyed those emotions so realistically) was terrific! Really, he made me think, "If there's a single person who complains about Mr. Midorikawa's portrayal of Tamahome, I'm going to punch them out!" I really thought that! ☺ And when Nuriko died (episode 33), I just kept crying and crying... Ms. Sakamoto and Ms. Araki were so great! For anybody who hasn't seen the TV show, rent it if that's the only way, but please see it!! I was so emotional! ☆☆ There was a scene in it where Nuriko and Miaka go on a date in the real world. One of the staff told me, "It's a present for Nuriko." ☆☆ I think Nuriko would like that. There are so many episodes that I'd like to recommend that I wish I could do a commentary on the whole series! ☺ Everybody, please watch the videos!

By the way, I'm sure you all yelled, "Whyyy!?" when the Country of the Amazons section was cut out! ☺ It seems that the whole situation of them traveling to a nation of Amazon women is too risqué to show on TV. There was nothing the anime company could do. That episode of the manga was so popular... I was disappointed too! ☆☆ Also, I hear that the heavy scar on Chichiri's eye was too much for TV, so they just had the thin scar going through his eye. Manga isn't immune to these concerns, but TV has a lot of special rules. In exchange, they added more to Keisuke's and Tetsuya's investigation into the "Universe of the Four Gods" mystery! I was happy about that! They were planning a scene where Tatara and Suzuno died at the same time, but events conspired against it, and they couldn't do it. ☆☆ But there were scenes that I didn't do in the manga that they were able to do in the anime!

Miaka's episode 34 is just wonderful, in a different kind of way! ☺ Ms. Araki arouses my curiosity! ☺

MIIRU, TAKA IS ANOTHER MEMBER OF OUR CLUB!

I WAS SIGNED UP WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE OR CONSENT.

I'M TAKA SUKUNAMI.

WHAP

THIS IS MY LITTLE SISTER, WRITTEN WITH THE CHARACTERS "BEAUTIFUL CRIMSON," MIAKA. AND AS YOU CAN SEE, SHE DOESN'T DO HER NAME JUSTICE.

WHAT WAS THAT DUMMY TAKA DOING!?

CHANGED CLOTHES

WHY WAS HE SMILING AT HER LIKE KEISUKE DOES!?

THEN HERE'S MY PERSONAL WELCOME TO THE CLUB.

IS THAT SO? I BECAME A MEMBER JUST TODAY!

A MURDEROUS STARE ??



KEISUKE . . .

MIAKA! TAKA! WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?

I SEE! SO YOU TWO CAME HERE ON VACATION TOO.

NO, THE TWO OF US ARE JUST IN THE SAME CLUB. LET ME INTRODUCE YOU! THIS IS MIIRU KAMISHIRO.

WHO IS THIS WOMAN?

WHO CARES IF IT WAS AN ACCIDENT? SHE *KISSED* TAKA!!

I REALLY AM SORRY!

NOT AT ALL! IT SUITS YOU PERFECTLY! "AS GOES THE NAME, SO GOES THE BODY," SO THEY SAY!

IT'S WRITTEN WITH THE FIRST KANJI IN MIRYOKU, WHICH MEANS "CHARMING." BUT IT'S AN ODD NAME, ISN'T IT?

MIIRU ?

"FARE-WELL..."

IF THE STONES HOLDING TAMA-HOME'S MEMORIES AREN'T FOUND ...

IT'S POSSIBLE THAT I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO ENTER THE SCROLL AGAIN. AND WHAT AM I DOING ABOUT IT?

THE WATCH THAT HELD THE GOD SUZAKU... SHI-HANG LIAN CRUSHED IT INTO LITTLE PIECES.

TONK

HEY, FUNNY-FACE?

IF YOU DON'T WASH UP, YOU'LL START TO FEEL STICKY.

THAT SHOWER FELT GREAT! YOU WORKED UP A SWEAT COMING HERE TOO, RIGHT?

WHY'RE YOU IN SUCH A GOOD MOOD!?

DID IT FEEL SO NICE, KISSING A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN ?



BUT YOU'RE THE ONE FOR ME.

THAT MAKES SENSE. SHE IS GORGEOUS, AND HER STYLE SENSE IS PERFECT! I CAN SEE WHY KEISUKE WAS SO INFATUATED WITH HER.

IT'S BOTH!

IS *THAT* WHAT YOU'RE SO ANNOYED OVER? I THOUGHT IT WAS YOUR WATCH BEING BROKEN.

EVEN IF YOU STUMBLE ON THE WAY, YOU PICK YOURSELF UP AND GIVE IT YOUR BEST WITH YOUR EYES FIXED FIRMLY AHEAD OF YOU. THAT'S THE GIRL FOR ME.

YOU GO AT FULL SPEED, NO MATTER WHAT.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?

WHOO OOSH

HA HA HAA

AREN'T YOU GLAD THAT I DON'T NEED MY G.RL TO HAVE A PRETTY FACE?

I WANT TO BE THERE WITH YOU.

EVEN IF IT TAKES YEARS, I WANT TO BE BY YOUR SIDE WHEN YOU BLOOM INTO YOUR MOST BEAUTIFUL MOMENT.

...AND YOU, MIAKA, HAVE YET TO COME INTO BLOOM.

...IS TAKA!

THE ONE WHO'S MOST AFRAID OF VANISHING... THE ONE WHO IS THE MOST UNEASY...

DISAPPEARING MEANS THAT EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM WILL BE GONE!

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

NOBODY KNOWS MY DRAWBACKS BETTER THAN I DO!!

EXCUSE ME FOR BEING A CHILDISH, LOOSE-CANNON IDIOT!

MRRL

BUT I THINK IF YOU CALMED DOWN A LITTLE, YOUR SEXY SIDE WOULD COME OUT MORE...

FROM HERE ON OUT, YOU'LL ONLY GET MORE BEAUTIFUL.

JUST GIVE IT ANOTHER HALF-YEAR...

...YOU'LL BE SO GORGEOUS, YOU'LL SURPRISE YOUR-SELF!

I HEARD SOMEWHERE THAT ALL GIRLS ARE FLOWER BUDS.

JUST WAIT A WHILE UNTIL IT'S TIME FOR THEM TO BLOOM, AND WHEN THE MAN THEY LOVE COMES ALONG...

...THEY BLOOM INTO THE MOST BEAUTIFUL FLOWER YOU'VE EVER SEEN. THE GOOD TIMES AND HARD TIMES ARE ALL NOURISHMENT TAKEN IN PREPARATION FOR THAT DAY.

!!!

COME OUT OF THERE! YOU'D *BETTER* NOT BE DOING ANYTHING SALACIOUS HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE AFTERNOON!

WILL YOU SHUT UP, KEISUKE, YOU DUMMY !?

FROM THE TIME WE MET IN THE BOOK...

...WILL BE WHEN I'M AT YOUR SIDE IN A WEDDING DRESS.

THE MOMENT I WILL BE AT MY MOST BEAUTIFUL...

OF COURSE YOU'LL BE THERE, TAKA.

...IT'S BEEN OUR DREAM.

TAKA! YOU'D BETTER TAKE PART IN THIS CLUB EVENT!

RESERVING ONE ROOM FOR YOU AND MIAKA TOGETHER... I CAN SEE THE BLACKNESS IN YOUR HEART, MISTER!

LET'S GO CHECK OUT THE TOWN TOGETHER !

GAMPH

MIAKA! TAKA!

BAM BAM

YET YOU FELL VICTIM TO SUZAKU'S MINIONS...NOT ONLY THAT, BUT MIAKA YŪKI AND TAKA SUKUNAMI... WHO ARE NO MORE THAN HUMAN!

LIAN... LIAN-FANG! WHAT A WASTE YOU ARE! HAD YOU SIMPLY THE STRENGTH, YOU COULD HAVE BENT THE IGNORANT MASSES OF THAT WORLD TO YOUR WILL.

YOUR MAJESTY TENKŌ! HOW SHALL WE DISPOSE OF THIS ONE?

YOUR PLAN PLACED TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON THE STONES. IT MADE YOU UNABLE TO DEFEAT THOSE TWO IN A SIMPLE SURPRISE ATTACK

BUT I HAD NO CHOICE.

WITH MY POWERS NOT FULLY AWAKENED, AND YET SEALED INSIDE THE WORLD OF THE SCROLL BY THE POWER OF THE FOUR GODS... I CAN ONLY SEND PETTY UNDERLINGS.

YOU WERE WARNED AGAINST THE SCROLL. BUT YOU CLOSED YOUR EYES AND REFUSED TO SEE.

YOU'RE OF THE YANG CLAN, YET YOU LACKED ABILITY. YOU WERE CARELESS.

OPEN YOUR EYES! ARE YOU DEAD, LIAN?

IT LOOKS A LITTLE LIKE THE GREAT PALACE OF HONG-NAN!
IT SURE IS HOT OUT HERE!
YOU JUST HAD THREE SNOW CONES!
I'M PARCHED! I WANT ICE CREAM! I WANT JUICE!
HERE!

So... I received a present through the president of Daran Pub ishing, and it was a Ming Dynasty (D.d I say Ch'ing before? I know nothing!!) woman's jewe.ed seal that's a real treasure! (By the way, the president is a col.ector of rare treasures.) And he's got two jeweled necklaces!

This is one type. The other is in the shape of a dragon.

▷ This one is definitely Ch'ing Dynasty. The jewel that's attached is a stone from the Pam.rs region of India.
The dragon is from the Sung Dynasty. (Hong-Nan is based on this time.) The one above .s Ming Dynasty. *I hope I got the period right!* ^_^
The most amazing thing I received was a loose jewel (not set into a necklace) from between two and three thousand years ago! Two to three thousand years old! Isn't it.. just... *incredible?* I received other things, but this one was the most amazing. By the way, .n China (... this is Taiwan....it's complicated) peop.e keep their he.rlooms close. When I was eating, I saw a waitress was wearing a seal on her brace.et (Seals are very valuable items.) And to give me quite a number of such precious items... I'm really honored by their con.sideration!
One other thing I was treated to the best tea .n Taiwan by Daran Publishing's president! I even got some of the tea to take home! ☺ I wonder if it is proper to accept so many gifts! ☺
I want to thank all the people who were with me the whole time, Mr. Wong (he speaks Japanese perfectly!) and Mr. Zou...and Ms. Tomoko Takagishi from MSC, etc., etc. Thank you for everything you've done for me! (And sorry I was so out of it! 😵)

THEN I WOULD BE FREE!
HOWEVER, THE POWER OF SUZAKU WEAKENS DAILY. IF SUZAKU WERE ELIMINATED, THE SEAL THE FOUR GODS PLACED ON ME WOULD COLLAPSE!
...
I SEE. THEN WE SHALL DISPOSE OF LIAN LATER.
THE PLAN OF AN ADORABLE MINION OF MINE IS UNDER-WAY.
I MUST SEPARATE MIAKA YŪKI AND TAKA SUKU-NAMI.
THERE ARE ONLY TWO TO WHOM THE POWER OF SUZAKU WAS GIVEN, IN WHOM RESIDES THE ONLY WAY TO REVIVE SUZAKU..
IT MUST BE DONE BEFORE TAKA SUKUNAMI CAN GATHER HIS MEMORY STONES AND BECOME FULLY HUMAN!

IT SURE IS...

LOOK HOW HIGH UP THE SUN IS!

DON'T BLAME ME! I WANTED TO BE ALONE WITH HER MYSELF...!

HEY, KEISUKE!! WHY DID YOU FORCE US TO GO WITH YOU!?

YOU WANT TO DATE HER, DON'T YOU!?

WHAT!? THAT'S JUST YOUR WEAK WILL!

..BUT MIIRU INSISTED! SHE SAID "I WANT YOUR SISTER TO GO WITH US"! THEN SHE SMILED AND THAT WAS THAT

HUH? WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE TWO?

OH! YEAH... HMM.

I'D BE AFRAID FOR ANYONE WHO DIDN'T KNOW!

EH?

OH? HOW DID YOU KNOW?

WOW, MIIRU! YOU KNEW JUST WHAT WE NEEDED!

I FIGURED THAT EVERYONE WAS GETTING THIRSTY. HERE, MIAKA, YOU GET TWO!

TH-THANK YOU! YOU WENT ALL THE WAY TO THE STORE TO GET THEM?

AH! THANK YOU!

MIIRU!

AHEM! MY, I AM JUST SWEATING SO MUCH! HOW ODD!

WHERE'S MY HANDER-CHIEF? MY HANKIE!

!!

EH? TH-THAT'S OKAY.

OH! LOOK AT ALL THAT SWEAT! I'D BETTER WIPE IT OFF BEFORE IT GETS INTO YOUR EYES!

YOU'RE SWEATING TOO, KEISUKE. HERE, USE THIS.

I ONLY MET KEISUKE YŪKI TODAY, AND SUDDENLY HE INVITES ME ALONG ON THIS TRIP. I WAS SO SURPRISED!

REALLY? =-=

MIAKA IS !?

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

?

BUT I'M GLAD THERE'S SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN US. I KNOW IT'S AWFUL OF ME TO SAY...

...BUT I'M AFRAID THAT YŪKI IS ATTRACTED TO ME.

IT'S A LITTLE TOUGH ON ME, TAKA! YOU SEEM TO KNOW KEISUKE PRETTY WELL. CAN I ASK YOU FOR ADVICE SOMETIME?

PLEASE ?



TAKA !!

WE'RE IN THE SAME CLUB. ASK ANYTHING YOU WANT.

THIS WAS REALLY GOOD. HOW MUCH WAS IT? 110 YEN?

!

CLINK

SST

TAK--

THANK GOODNESS! I WAS WONDERING WHERE YOU TWO HAD WANDERED OFF TO!

SST

WELL, PLEASE COME TO MY ROOM TONIGHT AT ABOUT 10.

HM? NOTHING. I JUST GAVE HER MONEY FOR THE DRINK.

WHAT WERE YOU TWO TALKING ABOUT ?

REALLY? I'M JUST GETTING HUNGRY!

I WAS THINKING WE SHOULD FIND A PLACE TO EAT!

GLARE

AH! MIAKA!

THIS IS SUSPI-CIOUS ...

GLARE

TONK

AH!

IT MUST BE TIME FOR MY BATH!

IT'S SO WARM WITHIN TAKA'S ARMS...

...ALL MY ANXIETIES AND GLOOM DIS-APPEAR.

I WONDER WHAT I'LL SAY WHEN I FINISH MY BATH...

YOU STAY RIGHT THERE! YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO COME IN!

RIGHT.

GOOD! GO, KEISUKE! FIGHT!!

TONIGHT I'M GOING TO ASK HER OUT FOR DRINKS!

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE KEISUKE AND MIIRU ARE TRYING TO MAKE SOMETHING WORK, SO I HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT RIGHT?

SHE REALLY *IS* A NICE PERSON!

GONG

LET ME MAKE IT UP TO YOU. I'LL BUY YOU DESSERT!

I'M SORRY! I WAS BEING A LITTLE TOO INTIMATE WITH TAKA, WASN'T I? I ALWAYS CAUSE SO MUCH TROUBLE!

!!!

YOU'VE GOT SOME COBWEBS UP HERE, EH?

WELL... THE NIGHT IS STILL YOUNG.

OF *COURSE* YOU DO!! YOU WENT AND ATE THREE WHOLE DESSERTS!

UHHH-HH

I'VE GOT A STOMACH-ACHE!

BUT MIIRU KEPT PUSHING THEM ON ME...

KA-CHAK

IT ISN'T SO DIFFICULT. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GO WITH HIM, JUST TELL HIM STRAIGHT.

A FEW MINUTES AGO, KEISUKE ASKED ME TO GO DRINKING WITH HIM. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!

IT'S ALL RIGHT! DON'T MIND ME... COME IN! I NEED YOUR ADVICE RIGHT NOW!

THEN... THEN... THEN... I'LL COME BACK LATER!!

SHUEISHA JUMP

KA-CHIK

THAT'S REALLY ALL I HAVE TO SAY, SO I'LL BE GOING. MIAKA'S WAITING FOR ME.

I THINK IT'D BE NICE IF YOU WENT OUT WITH HIM. BUT IF YOU AREN'T ATTRACTED TO HIM, THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE OTHER CHOICE.

BUT KEISUKE IS SUCH A NICE GUY!

HE'S SWEET AND FUNNY

WELL... IT SHOULD ONLY TAKE FIVE MINUTES . . .

THE TYPE WHO CAN'T REFUSE WHEN OTHERS ARE COUNTING ON HIM.

MIAKA'S IN THE BATH, TOO.

IT'S 10 P.M. ALREADY.

...

NOK NOK

MIIRU ?

IT'S ME, TAKA.

OH! I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!

KA-CHIK

I'M SORRY! I WAS IN THE SHOWER.

FUMP

CHUNCH

...TOO MUCH EXCITE-MENT !

MIIRU !!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT !?

I'M FINE. IT WAS JUST ...

MIIRU ??

BAM BAM

MIIRU? IT'S MIAKA! IS... TAKA IN THERE?

IT COULDN'T BE...!

WHAT WAS MIIRU'S ROOM NUMBER AGAIN?

KEISUKE! IS TAKA OVER IN YOUR ROOM?

YES ?

HUH? THAT ISN'T TOO LIKELY, IS IT? I'M ABOUT TO TAKE MIIRU OUT TONIGHT!

BAM BAM

I KNOW! I'LL CLIMB UP TO HER BALCONY !

SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT! IT SOUNDS LIKE SOME-ONE'S INSIDE ...

MIIRU ?



TAKA! I'M SORRY, I...

... TAKA ?

AWW... OOPS !

THE BATH FELT SO GOOD, I FELL ASLEEP!

AAA!

SPLASH

...

BRRRR

RIGHT! ALL SET!

I LOOK SO MANLY LIKE THIS!

...!?

IT ISN'T TRUE!

...TO BITE YOU SO HARD.

HEH HEH! I'M SO SORRY, TAKA...

!?

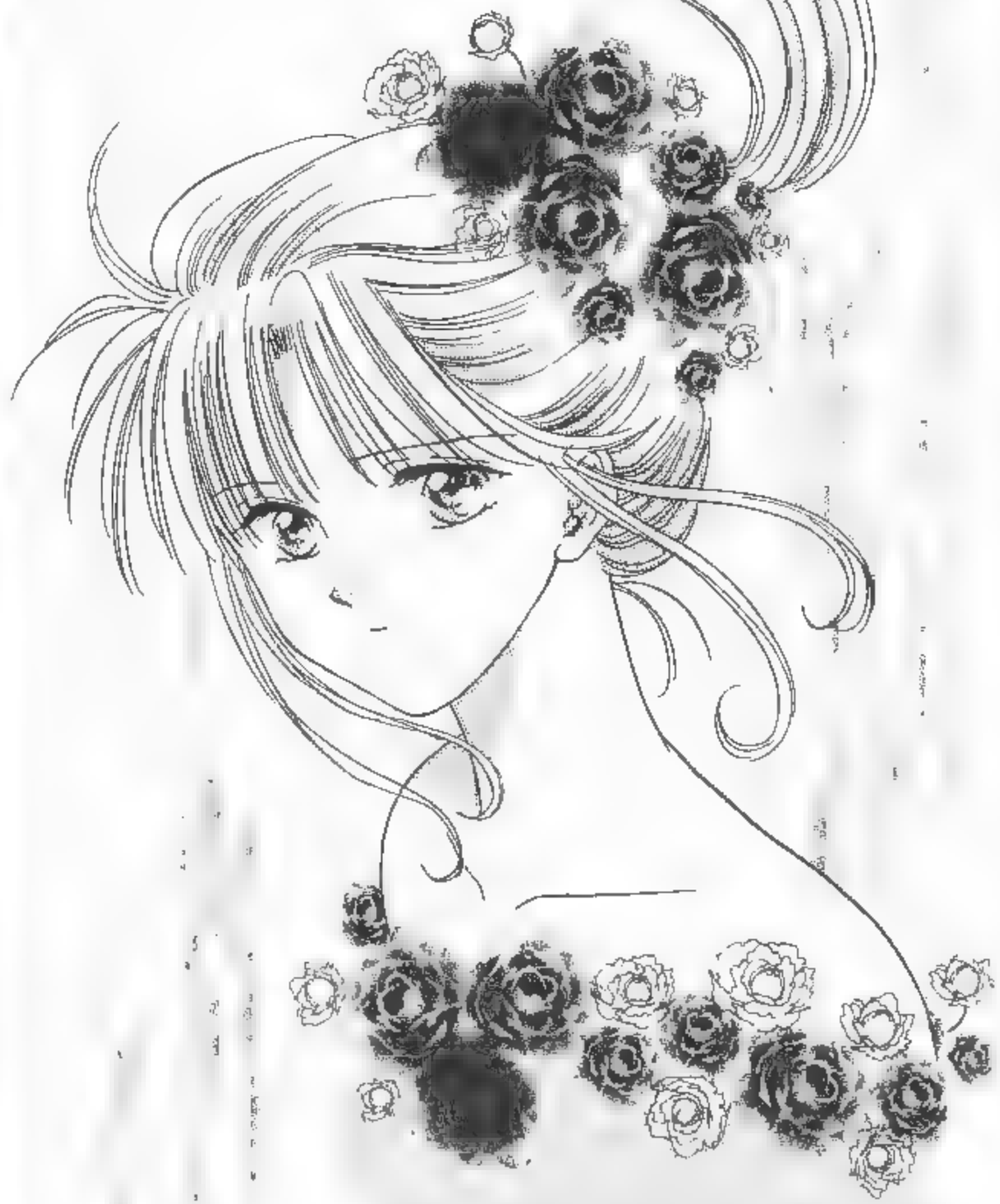
TAKA!!

THAT SHADOW ISN'T HUMAN!!

IT... CAN'T BE!

TAKA!!

# CHAPTER NINETY-ONE
# THE MYSTIC FANG



THIS BODY NO LONGER HAS CORPOREAL FORM. AS TIME PASSES, PARTING WOULD BE EVER MORE UNBEARABLE.

FOR NOW, THE CELESTIAL WARRIORS QUEST IS TO FIND THE MISSING STONES THAT REPRESENT TAMAHOME'S MEMORIES. AND AS FOR THOSE TWO, WE'VE SAID OUR PARTING WORDS.

YEAH YEAH YEAH...

HE WILL BE AS INTELLIGENT, DIGNIFIED, AND ULTIMATELY BEAUTIFUL A RULER AS HIS FATHER WAS BEFORE HIM.

BE AT EASE. MANG-CHEN IS A FINE BOY HE WILL GROW INTO A SUPERLATIVE HEIR TO THE THRONE

KRAKK

WHAT IS!?

IT'S COMING !!

IN ANY CASE, I'M GLAD WE WERE ABLE TO INSCRIBE AN EFFECTIVE CHARM ON THE PALACE TO WARD OFF MORE DEMONIC CREATURES. NO DA. ^_^

FWIK

♫ THE TEMPLE BELL THAT SOUNDS THE TIME.

OOOONNNGGG

THE CAPITAL OF RONG-YANG IS ALWAYS BUSTLIN', EH?

ONE THING I'D LIKE TO ASK, YOUR MAJESTY... ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO COME WITH US? NO DA?

YES. IT IS ALMOST AS IF THE DEMON GOD NEVER EXISTED.

NO. THIS IS AS IT SHOULD BE.

WOULDN'T YOU RATHER STAY AT THE PALACE WITH THE EMPRESS FENG-QI OR HIS HIGHNESS MANG-CHEN? NO DA?

TAKA!!

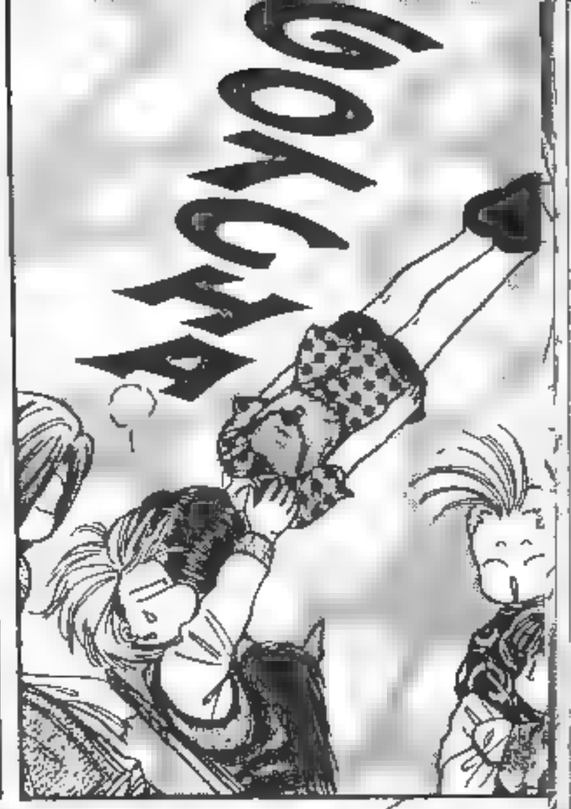
MY BODY IS VANISHING!

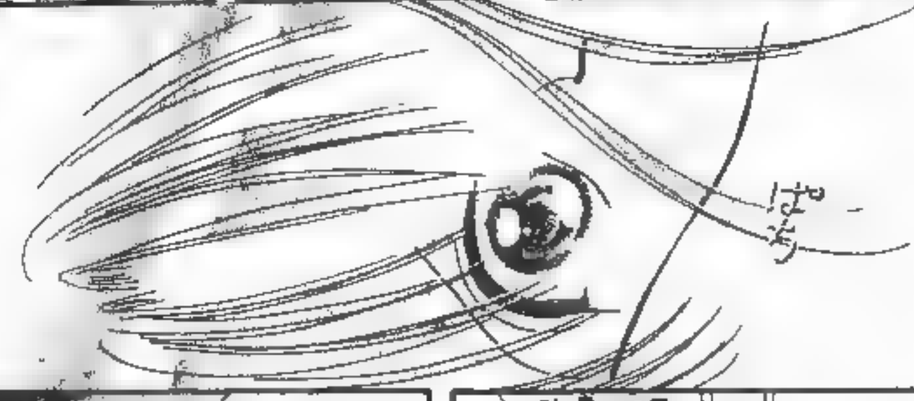
While I was in Taiwan, I was taken to a whole bunch of places! One was the Old Capitol Museum (Was that the name?)... I forget. Because everything there was the real thing! ☺ I learned a lot! Also there was a village that looked like it was out of a movie! (It was incredible! An ancient Chinese village brought intact into modern times. I thought I was caught in a time warp!)

Oh yeah! The president of the publishing company took me to a massage center! Some of it hurt so much I cried out! ☺ And it went constantly for three hours! I could hear the cracking of bones, but by the end, it was like I had grown wings! (I felt so light!)

The market at night was a real Taiwan hot spot... or I should say it was crowded, crowded, crowded!! Even though it was 10 p.m., children were all over. It was like a night fair. And it happens every night! I'm so jealous! The feeling was like Sennichi-mae in Namba, Osaka (a big shopping promenade), but more impressive! (It really is amazing!) And the restaurants were so delicious! (My constitution was in better condition than it is in Japan.) I received some manga from some Taiwanese artists, but I had nothing to give back to them, so I handed them telephone cards. I signed all sorts of things everywhere! ☺ But I still wonder why they were so enthusiastic after receiving only that. I had heard once that the Taiwanese manga scene grew out of the Japanese manga scene, so Japanese manga artists are treated like gods. Maybe it was true once, but now the Taiwanese artists are so accomplished! And the artwork I got from the readers was beautiful, too. If Japan doesn't pay attention, it could fall behind in manga. ☺ I still find it astonishing that manga can cross national and cultural barriers. I don't just mean the language barriers, but that there is no border that can hold back manga! That's what this trip taught me! I'll fondly remember this trip for the rest of my life. And to the people of Taiwan, thank you for letting me know that manga is a worldwide culture! I'll come back soon!

WH-WHAT'LL I DO? I HAVE TO GO BACK! TAMAHOME IS WITH THAT WOMAN!
WHAT HAPPEN TO TAMA-HOME?
MIAKA, YOU ALONE?
THAT WOMAN?
THAT WAS A SURPRISE! I NEVER SUSPECTED THAT SUZAKU'S POWER COULD STILL BE EFFECTIVE.
IT DOESN'T MATTER. WHILE THAT LITTLE GIRL IS GONE...



NOW YOU WILL NEVER...

...BE ABLE TO LIVE WITHOUT ME AGAIN!

SO THIS MIIRU KAMISHIRO WOMAN WAS ATTACKIN' TAMA-HOME?

...AND I WAS TAKEN HERE.

YEAH... BUT JUST THEN, I GOT CAUGHT UP IN THE RED LIGHT..

I SAW HER SHADOW! SHE WASN'T HUMAN!

IF SHE WAS... SOME KIND OF DEMON-GOD THING, TAKA'S IN TROUBLE!!

HE WAS NOT CHEATING !!

ON THE OTHER HAND, ANY NORMAL GUY'D FIGGER HE WAS CHEATIN' ON YOU.

THUMP

HEH HEH... THAT'S A GOOD BOY!

YOU SHOULD BE IN THE MIDDLE OF A VERY GOOD DREAM RIGHT NOW!

MY TECHNIQUES ARE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT THAN LIAN'S...

WHILE YOU DREAM, I'LL SEPARATE OUT YOUR SOUL UNTIL YOU ARE A HOLLOW SHELL. THEN I CAN USE YOUR BODY AS I WISH.

NURIKO !?

HE'S RIGHT. YOU SHOULD CHEER UP! NOW YOU GET TO COME WITH US! NO DA!

WE'RE HEADED TO THE HOUSE WHERE NURIKO USED TO LIVE. NO DA.

MIAKA, THAT DIRECTION IS THE BOOK DISTRICT.

...MM...

TRUDGE

TRUDGE

I SEE... TO FIND THE FOURTH STONE.

I'VE GOT TO GET MOVING!

I CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND AND WORRY.

MIAKA ISN'T PAYING ATTENTION. NO DA.

...

SO IT MAY NOT BE THAT I'M HERE FOR ONLY AN HOUR! IF I'M STUCK HERE FOREVER, THEN TAKA...

THAT WOULD BE WORSE!

BUT THEN, MAYBE THAT WOMAN AIN'T NO DEMON!

OHHHH! I GET IT! I GET IT! YOU'RE SAYING THAT TAMAHOME AIN'T A TWO-TIMER!

ILLOGICAL CHEERING-UP TECHNIQUE

SUZAKU WAS IN MY WATCH WHEN IT WAS SMASHED TO PIECES!

BUT WHY DID I COME HERE?

WHAT'S WRONG? IT AIN'T LIKE YOU TO HOLD BACK.

BUT...

HEY, INNKEEP! BRING OUT ALL YA GOT! ALL YA GOT!!

IT ISN'T ENOUGH.

THINGS'LL WORK OUT. TRUST TAMA. HERE, EAT THIS AND CHEER UP A LITTLE.

UM... EXCUSE ME?

HEY, IT'S YOU! WHAT'RE YA DOIN' HERE?

NURIKO !!

AND NURIKO... I MEAN LIU-CHUAN IS MY DEAD YOUNGER BROTHER. WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE SUPPOSED TO BE?

WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? OF COURSE I'M ALIVE!

TAP

AND NURIKO IS SHORTER. NO DA.

HUH? THAT ISN'T NURIKO'S VOICE.

I CAN TOUCH YOU! YOU'RE ALIVE!!

WA AA AA !!

BROTHER !?!

SIGH

WHAT'S IN A CRUSTACEAN CONTRACT? CRAB CLAUSE!

MIAKA, LISTEN! I'VE GOT THIS GREAT JOKE!

WE'LL JUST PRETEND YOU NEVER SAID IT. NO DA.

POOF

THAT ONLY MAKES HER DEPRESSION DEEPER !!

IT'S NURIKO !!

I'M SURE LIU-CHUAN WOULD APPRECIATE IT.

COME TO THINK OF IT, I SHOULD REALLY BE DOING MORE OF THIS.
NO DA.

I WONDER IF IT'S OKAY TO PRAY IN JAPANESE?

I'LL PRAY, EVEN THOUGH I, TOO, AM DECEASED.
AH, NO MATTER.

YA THINK THIS'D *REALLY* MAKE NURIKO HAPPY?
WHISPER WHISPER
I DON'T KNOW

A PRIEST.



SO THIS IS THE SHOP...

...I WAS ONCE INFORMED THAT NURIKO'S HOME WAS A FAMOUS CLOTHING STORE IN THE TEXTILE DISTRICT.

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

MY NAME IS LU-HOU.

I NEVER DREAMED I'D MEET THE PRIESTESS OF SUZAKU AND HER WARRIORS! PLEASE FORGIVE MY RUDENESS.

HMM.. SO THIS IS WHERE NURIKO'S SPIRIT CAME BACK TO, HUH?

I NEVER KNEW NURIKO HAD AN OLDER BROTHER. HE TOLD ME ABOUT HIS SISTER...

YES... COULD I BEG YOU TO LIGHT A STICK OF INCENSE IN HIS HONOR?

BUT... I WAS SURE THAT MY BROTHER DIED UP NORTH IN BEI-JIA.

LU-HOU, NURIKO IS JUST FINE!

UM... AM I MISSING SOME-THING?

WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

...

NURIKO, CEASE AND DESIST!

RIGHT NOW, HE'S PROBABLY RESTING BENEATH SOME SNOWY FIELD. I KNOW HE DIED A WARRIOR'S DEATH, BUT IT IS STILL PITIABLE...

YES... I OFFERED IT UP AS A MEMENTO. IT'S FOR MY BROTHER, AND FOR MY SISTER WHO DIED SO LONG AGO.

THAT'S NURIKO'S?

THEY SAY THAT AT MIDYEAR THE DEAD RETURN AND STAY AT THEIR FORMER HOMES FOR A WHILE.

OH! THAT CRYSTAL BALL! IT WAS MY MOST PRECIOUS TREASURE SINCE I WAS A CHILD!

AH, THE MEMORIES!

HM?



WE MUST ALL PRAY QUIETLY!

YEAH, PIPE DOWN, WILL YA!?

SHH!

SILENCE! WE ALL MUST PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF NURIKO'S SOUL!

YOUR MAJESTY, WHAT'S EVERY-BODY DOING?

NURIKO!!!

YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!

NO DA!

I WAS SO SURPRISED! I WAS BLOWN DOWN FROM DAICHI-SAN, AND WHEN I CAME TO, I WAS BACK AT HOME.

I ONLY JUST NOW NOTICED YOU GUYS!

KNOK KNOK

MS. KAMI-SHIRO!

IT'S ME, YŪKI! I'VE COME TO TAKE YOU OUT!

FOR DRINKS, REMEMBER?

WHAAAAAA!?

WOBBLE

I... IS THAT YOU, KEISUKE?

AH... MS. KAMI-SHIRO...

EH?

HUH? BUT... IT'S STRANGE. THE COLOR IS DIFFERENT.

LOOK! THERE'S ANOTHER SPHERE INSIDE THE CRYSTAL!

I REMEMBER IT BEING MORE... HUH? WAIT A SECOND...

K-KEISUKE ...?

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!? I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

MIAKA CALLED ME TRYING TO FIND YOU!

LET'S GO!

MIIRU...? WHAT AM I... ??

!?

I'LL STAY IN MIAKA'S ROOM TONIGHT! TAKA, YOU WILL NOT COME NEAR MIAKA EVER AGAIN!!

I WOULD NEVER HAVE BELIEVED THAT YOU'D BE HERE BETRAYING MIAKA'S TRUST! WELL, I'M HER BROTHER, AND I WON'T SEE HER HUMILIATED LIKE THIS!!

!?

I... NEVER INTENDED FOR THIS TO...

WH-WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU CRYING?

TAKA !?!

TAKA!! WAKE UP!!!

HM?

HE SAID HE WANTED TO TALK, AND...

THE STONE!!

I'M SURE OF IT!!

AND IF THERE'S ANOTHER SPHERE INSIDE THE BALL...

I'M... FINE.

THINK OF HOW MUCH THIS WILL WOUND MIAKA! AND *YOU*, TOO!

TAKA!!

ISN'T THIS GREAT MIAKA? WE FOUND THE FOURTH STONE SO EASILY!

URK!

SAVE THAT TALK FOR A TIME WHEN YOU'RE *NOT* COMPLETELY NUDE!

TAKA...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHEN DID I EVER BETRAY MIAKA!?

I STILL CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT! HOW COULD HE DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT! HE USED TO BE TAMAHOME...

WELL... THIS IS UNFORGIVABLE!

IN ANY CASE, YOU CAN USE MY ROOM.

...THANK YOU.

YOU BETRAYED MIAKA! I WANT YOU TO *THINK* ABOUT THE HARM YOU'VE CAUSED!

K-KEISUKE ...?

MIAKA!!

THAT'S... THE SCROLL!!

I WANT YOU HERE, TAKA!!

TASUKI ...

WHONK

"YOU WILL NOT COME NEAR MIAKA EVER AGAIN!!"

IT COULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED, RIGHT?

EVEN IF WE FOUND THE STONE, IT'S NO GOOD UNLESS TAKA IS HERE!

TAKA!!

THAT'S RIGHT! MIAKA!!

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH TAKA?

MIIRU WAS RIGHT UP AGAINST HIM...

NO!

YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME!

MIAKA! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU SAW, BUT NOTHING HAPPENED BETWEEN THAT GIRL AND ME!

"YOU BETRAYED MIAKA! YOU LET EVERY-ONE DOWN!"

IT CAN'T BE THAT...

LOOK, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, BUT... THE STONE! THE STONE COMES FIRST! AND NOW THE MAN IS RIGHT HERE!

I'M JUST HAPPY THAT YOU'RE SAFE!

NOBODY'S TALKING TO YOU!!

BUT I *DON'T* BELIEVE YOU!!

SO ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS BREAK THE CRYSTAL SUR-ROUNDING IT?

NO DA?

AH !!

HUP

RIGHT !

...

TAKA! YOU CAME !

SAY THAT QUICKER, YOU IDIOT!!

...WATCH OUT.

NO DA.

MIAKA!?

!?

I DON'T KNOW! BUT I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY!

AND THE WARRIORS! WHAT IS THIS? HOW DID I GET HERE?

!!

...WHY ARE YOU NAKED...?

BUT...

TAMAHOME! I UNDERSTAND HOW THE MAN MUST FEEL. HOWEVER, IF WE WASTE TIME ON THIS, YOU MAY VANISH!

HE'S ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FIGURE OUT ANOTHER WAY TO GET THE STONE OUT.

TAKA?

WHERE DID YOU GET THIS WOUND?

SHHH

TWITCH

Y- YOU CAN'T! DON'T EVEN *JOKE* ABOUT THAT!

EH? WE HAVE TO BREAK IT OR DO *SOMETHING* TO GET THE STONE OUT--

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I *OWN* IT, AND I SAY IT'S OKAY.

STOP THAT! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?

LU-HOU...

YOU CAME IN HERE INTENDING TO STEAL IT FROM HIS VERY FAMILY!?

THIS IS ONE OF THE ONLY THINGS I HAVE TO REMEMBER LIU-CHUAN BY! HE'S MY BROTHER! HE'S DEAD AND WILL NEVER COME BACK!!

I SEALED IT WITH THE BLOOD THAT I SUCKED FROM YOU.

NOW YOUR BODY HAS BECOME MINE.

MIAKA YŪKI, HE WILL SOON BE SEPARATED FROM YOU.

I WILL TAKE YOUR PLACE AND SPLIT THOSE TWO APART!!

KYAA

NA NA. IT HURT LIKE YOU WERE GOING TO DIE, DIDN'T IT TAKA SUKUNAMI ?

IT'S A CURSE SEAL.

I WILL AVENGE YOU, LIAN! JUST WAIT!

SLUMP

TAMA-HOME !?!

!?

EYAAAAHH!

WH-WHAT IS THIS?

MIAKA JUST TOUCHED... ME...

...AND I FELT LIKE MY WHOLE BODY WAS BEING CHOPPED TO PIECES!

TWRL

TAMA-HOME! WHAT JUST HAPPENED ?? NO DA!?

CRINGE IN PAIN, MIAKA YŪKI!!

YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO BREAK MY CURSE! TAKA SUKUNAM BELONGS TO ME FOR THE REST OF HIS SHORT LIFE!!

WHEN I TOUCHED HIM ?

WH-WHEN MIAKA TOUCHED ME... MY ENTIRE BODY WAS IN SUDDEN PAIN...!

# CHAPTER NINETY-TWO
# THE BROKEN PLAN

MIIRU...

...KAMI-SHIRO...

TRULY. FOR TAMAHOME TO REACT THAT WAY *ONLY* TO MIAKA...

DOESN'T IT SEEM LIKE HE'S UNDER SOMEONE'S SPELL?

TAKA!

WHAT DID THAT WOMAN DO TO YOU!? I THINK SHE'S A MONSTER!

"YOU LET EVERYONE DOWN!"

"TAKA, YOU WILL NOT COME NEAR MIAKA EVER AGAIN!!"

WHY ARE YOU SO QUIET, TAKA?

SO IF... SO IF HE DOESN'T SAY NOTHIN' . . .

...

VWSH

NOW !!

GAMPH

HM?

WHAT'S THIS "RIGHT"!? ARE YOU SOME KIND OF DEMON !?!

YER THE GUY WITH "DEMON" ON YER FOREHEAD, TAKA!

I WAS JUST TESTIN' !!

I DON'T SEE MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE!

I'M NOT TAKA! I'M TAKA!

WILL YOU BOTH STOP!? NO DAI?

WH-WHY!?

RIGHT!

UHN . . .

EEYAAAAAHH!

IT MAKES ME FEEL THAT HE'S STILL WITH ME GIVING ME STRENGTH.

TO ME, IT STILL BELONGS TO HIM.

...I ASK THAT NONE OF YOU TOUCH OUR MEMENTO OF LIU-CHUAN... THIS CRYSTAL SPHERE.

HOW-EVER.

BIG BROTHER...

I'LL SEE TO THE PREPARATIONS FOR DINNER. LET'S GO TO A DIFFERENT ROOM.

WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE! WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND A WAY!

NO DA!

BUT INSIDE THE CRYSTAL IS THE FOURTH STONE THAT HOLDS TAMAHOME'S MEMORIES!

NO DA!

IT BEATS ME! I DON'T SEE HOW WE CAN BREAK IT WHEN HE TREATS IT LIKE SOME SORTA TREASURE!



I'M SORRY! I DON'T REMEM-BER MUCH...

BOTH OF YOU, QUIT TALKING STUPID AND FINISH THE STORY!

AN' IF HE CAME HERE NAKED, IT MEANS THAT THE TWO OF 'EM HAD ○○○, AND NOW THEY'RE ○○○○○S! HA!

HE'S RIGHT! STOP EMBAR-RASSIN' HIM, TAMA!

COULD I ASK ALL OF YOU TO STOP WITH THE LOUD VOICES AND OUTLANDISH TALK?

EVERYONE IN THE SHOP CAN HEAR!

EXCUSE ME...!

YOU'RE THE ONE DOING IT!!

WELL... YOU'RE ALL WELCOME TO STAY HERE FOR A WHILE. IT'S GETTING LATE... IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR MY PARENTS TO RETURN.

THOSE WOUNDS . . .

I ONLY REMEMBER UP TO THE POINT OF FEELING A SHARP PAIN IN MY EAR...

AH!!

TAMA-- I MEAN, TAKA...

YEAH!

MIAKA! YOU CAN'T GO NEAR HIM! I KNOW IT'S DIFFICULT...

NO DA...

...

UNGH!

TAMA-HOME!!

THAT TAKA AND I...

DOES THIS MEAN IT'LL *ALWAYS* BE THIS WAY?

EVERYONE'S HAVING DINNER IN THE ROOM BELOW.

I WONDER IF TAKA IS ALL RIGHT...

EVEN IF WE DO GO BACK WITHIN THE HOUR, TAKA'S CONDITION WON'T CHANGE. AND WITH THE STONE WHERE IT IS..

WE WERE BOTH ABLE TO GET HERE, EVEN THOUGH WE DIDN'T HAVE MY WATCH.

YA WANNA TRY EXCHANGIN' FER A FAKE?

OR CRY TIL WE GET OUR WAY?

THEY LET ME HAVE SOME CLOTHES FROM THE SHOP! IT'S SILK! REAL SILK!

I'M SO LUCKY!

OOPS!

MIAKA, DO YOU THINK IT LOOKS OKAY?

TAMA-HOME...!

...

OF COURSE. JUST AS I PROMISED AT THE BEGINNING, THE MOMENT THEY ARE GONE, YOU WILL FIND HAPPINESS!

YOU MUST GO, MIIRU. GO DESTROY HIS ENEMIES!

YES, MY LORD!

LIAN-FANG... THAT PITIFUL CREATURE!

IT MUST MAKE YOU SEETHE TO SEE YOUR BELOVED BROTHER BROUGHT TO SUCH A LOW STATE.

MY LORD TENKŌ! WITH MIAKA YŪKI AND THE SUZAKU WARRIORS DEFEATED, WILL YOU BE ABLE TO SAVE LIAN?

OR SHOULD I SAY... "MIIRU"?

YOU CAME IN AN ATTEMPT TO CURE LIAN-FANG? IS THAT WHY YOU ARE HERE, MEI-SONG?

MY LORD TENKŌ!

PLEASE FORGIVE ME. AS SOON AS I TRANSFER SOME CHI TO LIAN, I SHALL RETURN TO THE HUMAN WORLD.

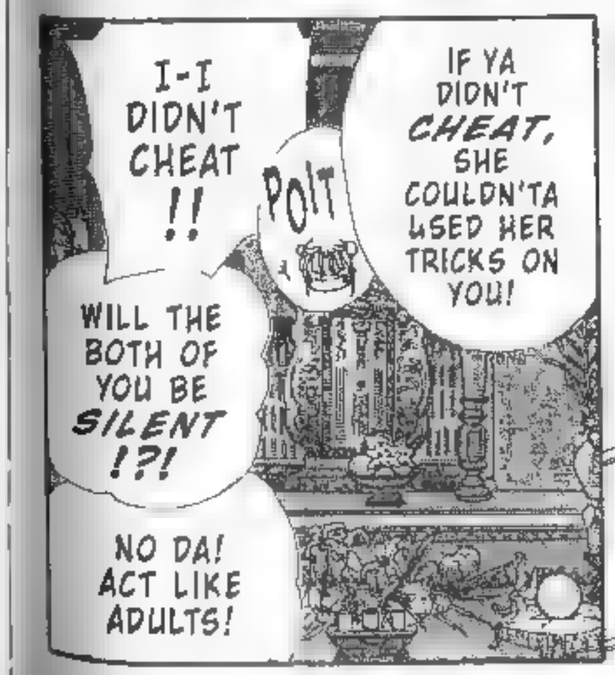
YOU SEE, I ALREADY HAVE TAKA SUKUNAMI UNDER MY SPELL.

## Assassin

In an earlier section, I talked about readers who said that they wouldn't acknowledge fans who became fans just because of the anime. Before long, I got a lot of letters complaining about that opinion saying, "I could cry," or "no fair!" Many said things like this, "Hey, I saw an episode or two of the anime, and I went right out and bought all of the graphic novels! That could be considered becoming a fan through the original work, too!" Ahh... yeah. ☺ The people writing in have a point. There are people who never had the chance to hear about *Fushigi Yūgi* until the anime came out, but once they did, their love for the series was just as strong as anyone else's. Those people fell in love with the story, and it makes me very happy that the number of fans increased after it became an anime. I can only say I'm moved that a whole lot of new people are emotionally affected by a story that come from the bottom of my heart. People can make a lot of friends through fan groups and have something to talk about. Even if they have different perspectives or have different favorite characters, they can have their worlds expanded by the points of view of others. At least, that's what I'd like to see happen. I'm so mature! If I were childish, I'd want to monopolize the work only for myself! ☺ So, everyone, be sure to go forward with an open heart! Remember there will be new readers too... so to you long-time readers, don't look disparagingly on any of the new fans!

While I was thinking all of those things I got this letter that said, "I knew that shōjo manga = high school romance, ♥♥♥ so I never read your stuff." *KA-WHUMP.*

A lot of people think shōjo manga is boring, huh? No, I understand their point. ☺ When I was in 6th grade, there was someone I knew who said, 'Shōjo manga are just boring romances," and threw the books out. *But why bring it up now?* Humph! Is all of this just revenge for ancient humiliations? ☺


I-I DIDN'T CHEAT !!
POI'T
IF YA DIDN'T CHEAT, SHE COULDN'TA USED HER TRICKS ON YOU!
WILL THE BOTH OF YOU BE SILENT !?!
NO DA! ACT LIKE ADULTS!

...GET AWAY FROM ME!!

...GET...

TAKA!!

EVERY-ONE...

EYAAAAAHH!!

FROM THE TIME WE WERE LITTLE, HE'S BEEN A CRYBABY AND A WEAKLING, AND I, HIS LITTLE BROTHER, WAS FORCED TO BE THE ONE TO DEFEND HIM.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT *HIM!* HE'S JUST SUFFERING FROM BROTHER-WORSHIP.

MOOOOO

WON'T LU-HOU BE UPSET?

...IS THIS REALLY OKAY, NURIKO? TO TRY TO MELT TH' CRYSTAL WITH MY HARISEN?

BESIDES, THE STONE INSIDE THE CRYSTAL IS MORE IMPORTANT!

HE'S BEEN RELYING ON OTHERS FOR ALL HIS LIFE, AND IT'S TIME HE ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT I'M DEAD.

!?

TWITCH

SO... IN ANY CASE... TAMAHOME, HOLD THIS IN YOUR HAND.

SSSLMP

TAMA-HOME !!

ROLLL

HE'S UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF PARASITIC DEMONS INSIDE HIS BODY!

NO DA!

MIAKA, YOU ARE *NOT* TO TOUCH HIM! THIS ISN'T SOME STANDARD TECHNIQUE THAT HE'S SUCCUMBED TO!

DON'T COME NEAR HIM!!

TAKA !!

I THINK THE MONSTERS HAVE GONE BACK INTO TAMAHOME!

TAKA

EVERY-ONE, GET BACK!

IT DIDN'T VANISH !?

THIS CAN'T BE A... !?

WH-WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE-- !?

GAAAH !!

TAKA !!

GASP

WHOOSH

WH-WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE DOING!? ...A-AND THAT MONSTER I JUST SAW...!

LU-HOU?

PARA-SITES? YOU'RE JOKING!

SOMEONE CALL FOR MY CARRIAGE! I'LL GO TO THE TEMPLE! THE BUDDHA WILL PROTECT BOTH THE CRYSTAL AND ME!

IF YOU WON'T LEAVE, I *WILL!!*

I WILL NEVER ALLOW ALLIES OF MONSTERS TO HAVE THIS SACRED OBJECT! LEAVE THIS HOUSE AT ONCE!!

N-NO! YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE! LISTEN TO US!



THAT'S A DAMN DIRTY TRICK!

DEMONS WITHIN HIS BODY? WERE THEY AFTER THE STONE?

WE BLEW IT PRETTY BADLY THAT TIME!

LU-HOU, WILL YOU JUST HOLD ON?

SHE ISN'T JUST TRYING TO SEPARATE TAKA AND ME...

...SHE'S PLAYING WITH TAKA LIKE HE'S SOME TOY!

MIIRU KAMI-SHIRO..!

SHE *WON'T* GET AWAY WITH IT!

TAKA, HOLD ON UNTIL I GET BACK, OKAY?

MIAKA !?

I'M GOING TO THE TEMPLE !

I'M GOING TO ASK LU-HOU TO GIVE US BACK THE STONE!

TSK! I GUESS I GOT NO CHOICE! I'M GOIN' AFTER HER! YOU GUYS HANDLE THINGS HERE!

WELL, I CAN'T JUST STAND BY AND WATCH!

EVEN IF WE GET TH' STONE BACK, WHAT DO YA THINK IS GONNA HAPPEN, MIAKA? IF WE GET IT CLOSE TO HIM, THE DEMONS'LL JUST COME OUT AGAIN!

WE STILL CAN'T DEFEAT EM!



LET US LEAVE THIS HOUSE. TAMAHOME CANNOT REMAIN IN NURIKO'S HOUSE IN THIS CONDITION.

CHICHIRI, LAI LAI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WE'RE WRITING SEALING SPELLS SO WE CAN PLACE WARDS AROUND TAMA-HOME.

WITH OUR SKILLS AND THE POWERS OF HOTOHORI'S SACRED SWORD, WE MAY BE ABLE TO REDUCE THE POWER OF THOSE DEMONS!

NO DA!

MAYBE GATHERING THE STONES WILL GIVE HIM BACK HIS WARRIOR'S POWER, OR MAYBE THERE'S SOME OTHER WAY...

...BUT REALLY, ALL WE'RE LOOKING FOR IS A METHOD TO GET THESE DEMONS OUT OF HIM!

RIGHT NOW HE JUST HAS A NORMAL HUMAN BODY. WHEN HE WAS A CELESTIAL WARRIOR, HE HAD SEVERAL TIMES THE STRENGTH OF WILL THAT HE HAS NOW.

NO DA.

MIAKA! WHAT DO YA THINK YER DOIN'!?

THUD

!?

THAT'S ENOUGH!! I'M GOING TO THE TEMPLE ON MY OWN!

I DON'T WANT TO BE ON ANY HORSE WITH YOU, TASUKI, WHILE YOU'RE BADMOUTHING TAKA!

YOU KNOW HIM! TAKA ISN'T SOME WEAK-WILLED IDIOT!

AND YOU... YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE HIS *FRIEND!*

"I WANT TO BE BY YOUR SIDE WHEN YOU BLOOM INTO YOUR MOST BEAUTIFUL MOMENT."

"FROM HERE ON OUT, YOU'LL ONLY GET MORE BEAUTIFUL."



LISTEN, I CAN'T BE NEAR HIM, SO THE LEAST I CAN DO IS TRY TO GET THE STONE BACK!

WHOOSH

TAMAHOME WENT T' THAT WOMAN ON HIS OWN, RIGHT? AND HIS EXCUSE THAT HE DON'T REMEMBER IS TOO EASY AN ANSWER!

IF YA ASK ME, HIS GETTIN' CURSED LIKE THIS IS ALL HIS OWN FAULT!

DON'T IT JUST PISS YOU OFF?

EH?

Y'KNOW WHAT I MEAN! THE WAY SOMETHIN' HAPPENED BETWEEN THIS MIIRU WOMAN AND TAMA-HOME!

SLAT

!?

...UNGH!

DRRD DRRD

LISTEN, I...

I...

THAT'S ENOUGH, TASUKI. GO BACK.

TMP

IT'S THIS DAMN STUBBORN-NESS IN WOMEN THAT'S THE WHOLE REASON I DON'T LIKE 'EM! THE TEMPLE AIN'T THAT WAY! IT'S *THIS* WAY!

RUSTLE

I-I *KNEW* THAT!!

AHHH!!

I DUNNO WHAT I'M EVEN SAYING!! HOLD UP, MIAKA!

I JUST THOUGHT YOU WERE LOOKIN' ... SAD, SO...

U... URR RGH...

T-TASUKI!!

SIINNN!!

THUDD

...SHI'NEN!!

GULP GULP

TASUKI!!

I THINK... THAT THING WAS POISONOUS...

THIS IS... BAD...

MY BODY'S STINGIN'... UNGH...

URK!

TASUKA...

THAT SHOULD DO IT, I HOPE!

PEH!

TWIK

O-OW ...

I NEED... ...A TOURNI-QUET!

JUST STAY STILL!

OH, NO... THIS IS BAD...

!?

HUFF HUFF

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!? DON'T TALK LIKE THAT!!

TELL TAMA I'M SORR--

N-NO! WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO...!?

Y-YOU DON'T KNOW... ABOUT SUCKIN' OUT POISON? YA... GOTTA TIE UP THE AREA CLOSE T' THE HEART...

OH! THAT'S RIGHT!

!!

WOUND... AN OPEN WOUND...

YOU WANT ME TO OPEN YOUR WOUND FOR YOU?

WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT? I DID IT RIGHT! BUT *YOU* FELT LIKE SOME VAMPIRE RIPPIN' AT MY BODY! *AH! OW! OW!*

EH!?

COULD IT BE..?

MAYBE I CAN USE MY MOUTH..

...AND SAVE TAKA'S LIFE!!

WHAT DO YA THINK YER DOIN'...?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! THIS SHOULD DO. IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW! JUST HANG IN THERE, TASUKI!

GRMMP

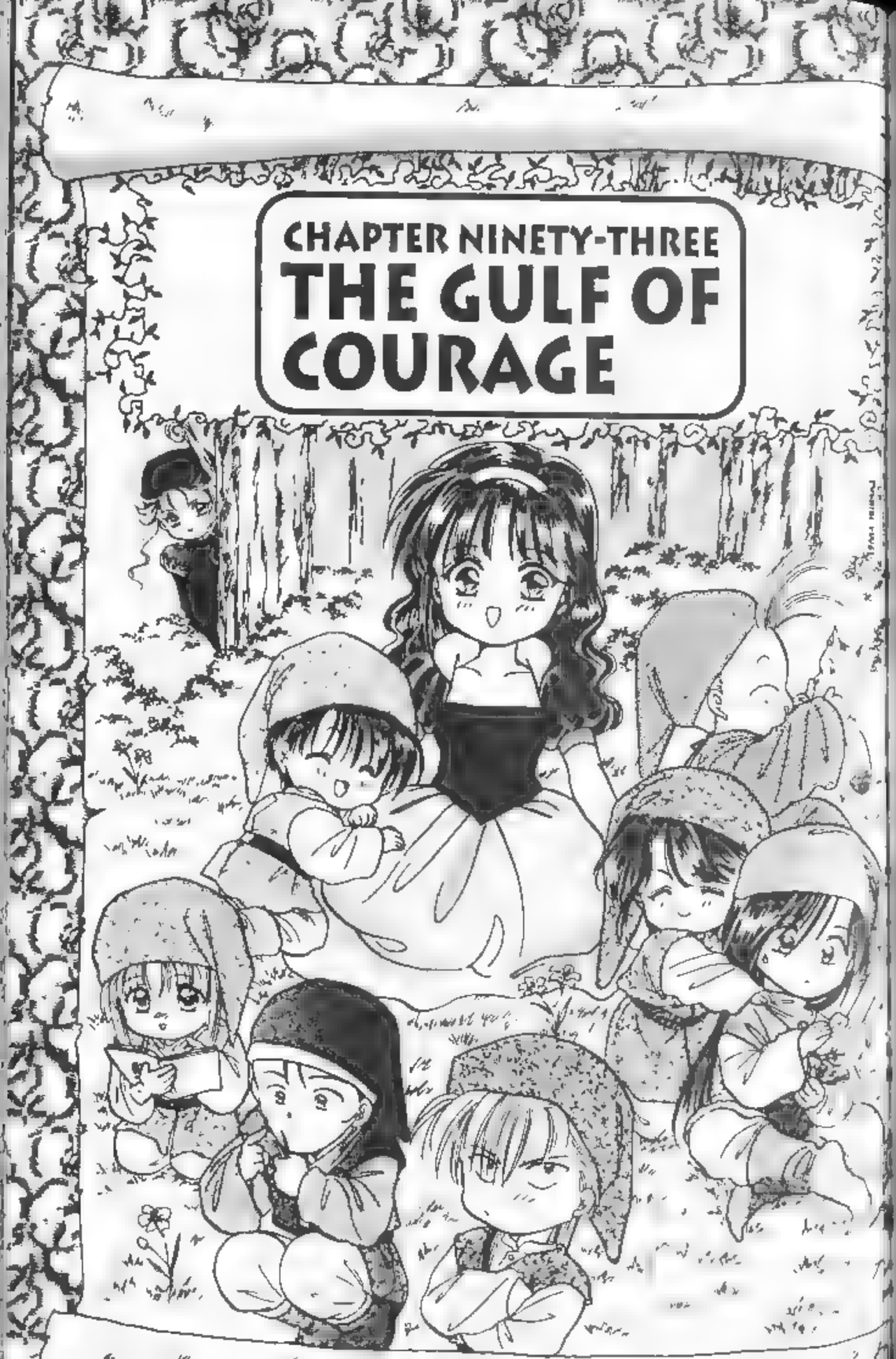
RRRRIPP

!

REMEMBER THE MOUTH-TO-MOUTH YOU DID ON ME?

THIS IS PAY-BACK!

# CHAPTER NINETY-THREE
# THE GULF OF COURAGE



It's now November '95

Some of the character merchandise things I talked about before were unconfirmed when I talked about them, so don't get upset if you can't find them, okay?

Oh, yeah! There's a jigsaw puzzle from Seika Note books! They come in three sizes: small, medium, and large. And the pictures they chose were great! The Suzaku warrior looks cool! And the shot with Miaka and Tama is so cute.

Another thing: Was everybody able to get their hands on a calendar this year? No, not mine... the two versions of the anime calendar. The pictures in them are beautiful! I love them both, but the one sold by Movic (I mean, the thing's just huge!!) I'm still wondering about the May/June picture. ☺ Those nudes get me every time! Fanfare ☆ Both the Suzaku and Seiryu are just cool. Nakago and Soi. Now that was just too good.

Oh, also the phone cards (the ones you can pick up for 20 yen), those are dead on! Chichiri is especially cool! He's got a profile on the card!

*I wonder if they're still on sale?*

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT! YOU JUST SAVED US!
I'M... SO SORRY... I'VE BEEN SO USELESS ...
THAT'S RIGHT CHIRIKO! YOU AIN'T NO COWARD! YOU AIN'T USELESS!
IT'S BEST TO GO LIKE THIS...
BUT CHIRIKO, YOU'LL DIE!!

Idea by Ms. Rui Suzuki.

## Doctor K: FUSHIGI AKUGI (13)
THE MALICIOUS PLAY

The title is "Hey, hey, Tasuki!" Whether you should laugh or cry is up to you. We all burst out laughing.

On book (4), I loved "19"!

• CD Book (5) (All finished!). Have you all had a chance to listen to it? Well, Watase just got goosebumps listening to it! The background music by 135 was just terrific! The scene where Seiryu consumes Yui! The scene where Miaka begins the chant to call Suzaku!! Nakago being so noble in the tale from long ago! The last scene! I just love the songs! And the brilliant acting by the voice actors! And the wonderful sound effects! I honestly feel that this is the best one yet among the five!

And Nakago's final "Mother!" had his voice overlaid with the voice from his youth! Tra-la! ★★★

Of course, at the scene where Suzaku is summoned, I got all shivery! It's really incredible when they put this to sound! The "Suzaku Theme" they used in the opening was so cool, I fell in love with it!

All the other songs were great too! Nakago's theme was just what the doctor ordered! ☺ And Miaka and Tamahome's theme left me spellbound. I swear, when I heard "Subete ni Wo A. Ni" ("Everything is Wo Ai Ni") the tears started to flow! And "Sayonara Iranai" ("No Need for Goodbyes")!! I was a crying wreck just listening to the songs! ☺ I had this image of the universe and the heavens.

It seems that the songs had an effect on my assistants, too. They were a little too on-target. Waaaah! ϑϱ

There was some dialog between Nakago and Yui on this CD. It didn't happen in the original, but last time, I talked all about Nakago to the scriptwriters, and maybe that was the reason for it. This stuff was always a part of Nakago's feelings and motivations, but because of page counts and other considerations it was left out. It's like they put it back in just for me... so I listen closely!!

Sincerely, to all of the production people, and all of the actors who have stuck with the CD book series for more than three years, and everyone, etc. etc., you guys did such a great job!!

*If you readers can get your hands on all five, be sure to give them a listen! Everyone who worked on it is a genius! (No, really. It's true. ϑϱ) But people like Makoto Nagai and the voice actors... I doubt they'll ever gather in the same place again. ϑϱ*

WHAT'RE WE HEADIN' BACK TO THE HOUSE FOR? WEREN'T YOU GOIN' TO GET THE STONE FROM THE TEMPLE?

IF WE GET BACK LOOKIN' LIKE THIS, TAMAHOME IS GONNA *KILL* US!

?

I'M PRETTY SURE I WAS ABLE TO SUCK ALL THE POISON OUT OF YOUR WOUND, BUT...

YER NOT GONNA TRY TO SUCK THE DEMONS OUT, ARE YA?

...I'M THINKING THAT MAYBE IT WAS THROUGH THE WOUND IN TAMAHOME'S...ER... *TAKA'S* EAR THAT THE PARASITIC DEMONS WERE ABLE TO ENTER HIS BODY!

HUH? YOU'RE WOUNDED! BESIDES, TAKA'S MY BOYFRIEND, SO I'LL BE THE ONE TO--

YOU IDIOT! YA CAN'T EVEN TOUCH 'IM! BESIDES, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU!

BUT... IT COULD BE WORTH A TRY, HUH? OKAY, GOTCHA!

I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT.



NOT A CHANCE! YOU'RE CUT PRETTY DEEP...

...AND YOU GOT IT DEFENDING *ME!*

MIAKA! QUIT WORRYIN' ABOUT ME! YOU GO ON AHEAD. I'LL BE FINE!

TH-THAT'S NO EXCUSE FER...

GLANCE

TAMAHOME... DO YOU NOT REMEMBER THE STABBING PAINS YOU FELT WHEN MIAKA TOUCHED YOU? THOSE DEMONS WERE THE CAUSE.

AND AS LONG AS THOSE THINGS ARE IN YOU, YOU CAN'T TAKE IN ANY MORE STONES.
NO DA.

NO, WE'RE NOT. THE DEMONS JUST TRIED TO STEAL YOUR STONE!
NO DA!

INSIDE? INSIDE MY BODY? YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
BLEAGH!

I'M SO WEAK RIGHT NOW! I JUST DON'T HAVE TAMAHOME'S STRENGTH ...

YOU'RE A MAN OF THAT OTHER WORLD NOW. IT HAD TO BE THIS WAY.
NO DA.

AH! I GET IT NOW... MIIRU BLIND-SIDED ME... THAT'S WHEN IT HAPPENED!

IN ANY CASE, WE'RE KEEPING THE DEMONS DOWN RIGHT NOW.
NO DA.

I'M PRETTY PITIFUL!



...UNH...

WE MAY ARGUE, BUT I'M PRETTY WORRIED ABOUT TAMA, TOO.

WHAT YOU TALK-ING!?

MAYBE IF YOU WERE ABOUT TEN YEARS OLDER ...

L-LAI LAI? UM, SORRY, BUT I'M NOT INTO LITTLE GIRLS.

TAMAHOME, LAI LAI IS BUSY KEEPING THE DEMONS IN YOUR BODY AT BAY!
NO DA

YOU AWAKE NOW ?

GWEE?

CHICHIRI ..
?

YOUR MAJESTY
?

SHE SET OUT FOR THE TEMPLE WHERE NURIKO'S BROTHER HAD FLED IN ORDER TO RETRIEVE YOUR STONE.

GASP

OH, YEAH! WHERE'S MIAKA?

IT'D BE A SHAME TO DEFEAT YOURSELF BEFORE BATTLING THEM. NO DA.

...

THERE ARE REAL DEMONS INSIDE OF YOU.

OH, GREAT BUDDHA! PLEASE PROTECT YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT AND THE CRYSTAL OF MY BROTHER, LIU-CHUAN!

TAMA-HOME... YOU MUST NOT DOUBT YOURSELF RIGHT NOW. NO DA

IT'S HARD TO TAKE! EVEN MY FEELINGS FOR MIAKA SEEM PART REAL AND PART UNREAL!

I WAS READY TO GIVE UP THIS WORLD, THE CELESTIAL WARRIORS, ALL OF IT TO REACH THAT GOAL.

ALL I WANTED WAS TO BE WITH MIAKA.

BUT LEAVING BEHIND MY MEMORIES OF THIS WORLD...

THE GREATER THE LOVE, THE GREATER YOUR DOUBTS. IT'S A STRUGGLE WITHIN YOURSELF AS TO HOW FAR YOU CAN TRUST YOUR LOVED ONE.

I THINK... I THINK THAT WHEN YOU LOVE ANOTHER PERSON, YOU OPEN YOURSELF UP TO THE GREATEST HAPPINESS AND THE WORST PAIN.

...IT MADE ME FEEL LIKE HALF OF A MAN.

(Continued...)
But since my professional manga debut, it seems like I've come to know the complexities of shôjo manga. Never underestimate it! It explores the details of how we express our feelings.... It just has some wonderful attributes that shônen manga lacks! It's strongest with stories involving romantic love, but since that wasn't my personal interest early on, I'd say, "Oh, god!" and throw it away. But recently, I've come to like the romance more and more. ☺ The ones I like are the "couple fated to be together" stories... the ones where they're hanging all over each other! I can't get enough of them! ☺
When I see a real-life couple walking in the street (not the ones that make you sick! Let's forget those for now) I get this pleasant feeling. I think in the past when I used to say "ugh!" I was just jealous. ☺ One of my assistants is in the habit of saying, "Ahh, that's amore!"
Before my debut, everything I wrote was sort of all-over-the-place. (Really! My settings and situations were really detailed then, but when I go back and read them now, I don't understand what's going on. I had the mistaken impression that throwing people into wild situation after wild situation was interesting, but it isn't.) But no matter what the story, if there is no love in it, it can be pretty dull. When one person is thinking of another, don't you think that's pretty wonderful? ☺
I never intended to be a "shôjo manga artist." (I did some shôjo manga-style stories, but that's because the magazines were shôjo magazines.) But "shôjo manga" wasn't what I wanted to draw. I wanted children, adults, everybody to enjoy my manga! (Well... *Fushigi Yûgi* was meant for people in the 3rd year of middle school and up, and that's how I drew it.) I think that this obsession (in the manga world) with aiming stories at a particular segment of the population is extremely strange! Personally I like the general "middle school" feel of my manga, and I want to keep it in my work, ideally. But there are times when I worry about the feel of my manga... ☺



SAYING STUFF LIKE THAT WILL MAKE EVERYTHING GO TO HELL!
?
AND LU-HOU, I WILL HATE YOU FOR LIFE!!
EH!? THAT VOICE...!
YOU GIVE ME NO CHOICE!!
GUBOOO

IF TAMAHOME IS LOST, THEN ALL OF THE CELESTIAL WARRIORS AND SUZAKU WILL BE LOST TOO!
HE'S MY BROTHER! WHY IS HE SUCH A WEAKLING?
...
LORD BUDDHA, THIS CRYSTAL MUST TAKE THE PLACE OF LIU-CHAN!
MUMBL MUMBL MUMBL
LU-HOU, I'M BEGGING YOU! GO BACK HOME!
PLEASE PROTECT IT SO THAT IT MAY NEVER BE TAKEN FROM ME.
BIG BROTHER!
LU...
AND LIU-CHUAN... PLEASE PROTECT ME!
SNAPP

SAVE MY BODY FIRST! THEN YOU CAN SAVE MY SOUL!

...

LU-HOU, I GOTTA WATCH YOU EVERY MINUTE, DON'T I ??

IT'S PRETTY PATHETIC FOR ME TO USE MY POWER ON A THING LIKE THIS... BUT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY!

UNH !!

BUT... !

GO ON AHEAD! I'M GONNA FOLLOW AFTER YOU.

TASUKI, ARE YOU IN PAIN? MAYBE I DIDN'T GET ALL OF THE POISON OUT...



EYAAAAHH!?

WH-- WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

TIME TO USE FORCE !!

BROTHER MONKS! SAVE ME!! WAAHH HHHH!!

FOR NOW, IT HAS TO BE JUST US THREE...

IS THERE NO WAY TO EXORCIZE THESE DEMONS FROM HIS BODY!?

THIS MIGHT AFFECT TAMA-HOME'S WILL TO LIVE!

HEY! OWW! EYAAH!

IF ONLY TENKŌ POWER WERE SEALED AWAY! THIS SO FRUSTRATING ...

WE'RE HERE! SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!

EXCUSE ME A SECOND !!

STP

NURIKO !?!

HEY, IT'S YOU, TASUKI! MIAKA!

TWRL

UNH!!

IT'S HURTING HIM AGAIN!

NO DA!

TAAA-MAAAA!
YA OPENED MY WOUND, YA LITTLE...
BUMP
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN ...
TASUKI! YOU'LL AGGRA-VATE YOUR INJURY!
UNH ...
HOTOHORI AND NURIKO DON'T HAVE BODIES! CHICHIRI AND LAI LAI ARE BUSY USING THEIR POWER!
WHAT'LL I DO? THERE ISN'T ANOTHER WAY TO HELP HIM! I'M GOING TO HAVE TO...
AND LOOK HOW TAKA IS SUFFERING!
I CAN'T JUST SIT BACK AND AND NOT HELP THE ONE I LOVE!
TAKA! WE'LL FIND A WAY TO HELP YOU SOON!
URK! I'M GONNA BE SICK!
I BROUGHT MY BIG BROTHER ALONG WITH THE STONE! HOW IS TAMAHOME DOING?
NURIKO !!
AAAAAHH!
TWITCH
YOU IDIOT! YER NOT SUPPOSED TO TOUCH 'IM!

SO... I CAN TAKE IT!

...I DON'T WANT...TO LOSE THIS BATTLE! FOR... YOUR SAKE, TOO...

...TO HOLD YOU CLOSE AGAIN!

I WANT TO BE ABLE...

NURIKO!! PLEASE! HOLD TAKA DOWN! YOU CAN USE YOUR WARRIOR POWER, RIGHT?

HEH... SORRY ABOUT THIS... NURIKO.

IT'S OKAY

...?

YEAH, BUT... WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO? WON'T THIS BE DANGEROUS?

...MI... AKA...

MIAKA ...

I DON'T KNOW... WHAT PLAN YOU HAVE IN MIND... BUT...

I... CAN TAKE IT! I'LL BE... ALL RIGHT!

TAKA ...

BUT... BECAUSE YOU STILL TRUST ME...

I WAS... CARELESS! THAT'S WHY... THAT WOMAN...

TAKA...
GET READY.

EYAAAAH!

UM...

WH-
WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
HIM?

HE'S...
BODY'S
BEEN
POSSESSED...
WITH
DEMONS
...

MIAKA ISN'T
THINKING
OF TAKING
THE DEMONS
INTO HER
*OWN* BODY,
IS SHE?

THIS
IS
IMMENSELY
DANGEROUS
!

AND SO...
MIAKA WANTS
T' SUCK
THE DEMONS
OUT OF HIS
WOUND...

*DAMMIT!
IF IT WEREN'T
FER THIS
INJURY, I'D
BE DOIN' IT!*

WHAT
?



TAKA
!!

AAAAAHH!

HE'S IN
INCREDIBLE
PAIN! EVEN MY
POWER WON'T
BE ABLE TO
HOLD HIM
DOWN FOR
LONG!

LU-HOU!
HELP ME
HOLD HIM
DOWN! COME
ON! YOU
CAN HEAR
ME!

SHVR
SHVR
SHVR

LIU-CHUAN...
WHAT
STRENGTH
DO YOU
THINK *I*
POSSESS...?

YOU'RE
THE
*ONLY*
ONE WHO
CAN
HELP!

*PLEASE!*
I'M
DEAD!
ASIDE
FROM MY
WARRIOR
POWERS,
I CAN'T
DO ANY-
THING!

LU-HOU... !!

I'M... FINE! HURRY...! HELP HIM!

...

OKAY.

LIU-CHUAN! I'LL PUT ALL MY STRENGTH INTO HOLDING HIS RIGHT ARM DOWN! YOU GET THE LEFT!

PLEASE. YOU CAN TAKE ME INSTEAD...

...BUT HE MUST SURVIVE !!

...

PLEASE! DO IT! SHOW YER LITTLE BROTHER WHAT YA CAN DO!

TAKA, TRY TO BEAR IT! JUST STAY AS STILL AS YOU CAN!

GAAHHH!

NO! HE'LL BITE HIS OWN TONGUE OFF !!

GONCH

TAKA!!

HI

...!?

KAEF!

MIAKA! SPIT IT OUT!!

PEH

PLIP PLIP

SST

MI... AKA...?

YA DID IT!!

THANK YOU, LU-HOU!

NO... WHEN I SAW YOU TWO, IT JUST CAME NATUR-ALLY.

MAYBE... BUT THAT WAS THANKS TO NURIKO HOLDING ME DOWN.

=PHEW!= YOU BORE THE PAIN WELL. NO DA.

LIU-CHUAN ?

YOU'RE STILL THERE, AREN'T YOU?

I... I *ALWAYS* RELIED ON YOU TO PROTECT ME.

PEOPLE EVEN SAID THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHICH OF US WAS THE OLDER BROTHER.

I'M OKAY.

THANK YOU... MIAKA ...

TAKA ...

OH, THANK GOOD-NESS !

SST

TAKA...

ARE YOU... ALL RIGHT? IT DOESN'T HURT ANYMORE? YOU'RE NOT IN PAIN?

YEAH... YEAH!

"LIU-CHUAN, KANG-LIN! WAIT FOR ME!"

YOU'VE DEFINITELY BECOME STRONGER! I COULD BE LONG GONE, AND YOU'D STILL BE JUST FINE!

SOME-TIMES YOU CAN REALLY BE A DUMMY!

LU-HOU, YOU'RE STILL MY BIG BROTHER !!

WHAT KIND OF TALK IS THAT? YOU'RE MAKING ME CRY!

!!

"DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND! I WANNA COME TOO!"

LIU-CHUAN, DID YOU SEE? THIS TIME, DID YOU SEE ME?

COULD YOU... ACCEPT ME IN THE ROLE OF BIG BROTHER NOW?

WE MAY BE SIMILAR IN LOOKS, BUT WE'RE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLE. YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD A STRONG SPIRIT.

AND I... I REALLY AM PATHETIC. I ALWAYS HOPED THERE'D BE A TIME WHEN I COULD BE A PROPER OLDER BROTHER TO YOU.

BUT YOU PASSED AWAY BEFORE I COULD.

MAYBE I BECAME A LITTLE STRONGER... A LITTLE MORE LIKE YOU!

OF COURSE I SAW IT!!

...

MY LORD TENKO...

...THEY'VE GOTTEN THEIR HANDS ON ANOTHER STONE! WHAT DOES MIIRU THINK SHE'S DOING !?!

HA HA... ...AMUSING...

...WHAT?

WHAT I SAID WAS...

...THESE NEXT FEW MOVES SHOULD BE ENJOYABLE!

OH... THANK YOU, LU-HOU!

BIG BROTHER, YOU SOFTIE!

THWAK

I'M NO LONGER AT THE AGE WHERE I CAN RUN AFTER MY BROTHER AND SISTER IN TEARS.

THIS IS FOR YOU.

THE FOURTH STONE...!

...NOW WE HAVE IT!

THUNK

BIG BROTHER? LU-HOU, STOP JOKING!

LU-HOU!?

YA KILLED 'IM WITH THAT UNNATURAL STRENGTH OF YOURS!!

HE'S JUST OUT COLD.

CHAPTER NINETY-FOUR

# A DREAM DRAWN FOR YOU

TASUKI! COULD YOU PLEASE BURN AWAY *JUST* THE SURFACE OF THE CRYSTAL? *DON'T HARM THE STONE!*

SEE?

RIGHT!

THANKS, TASUKI!

TAKA... HERE'S THE FOURTH STONE FOR YOU!

ファファファ

!

...!!

Waaa! The last one!
With all of the new readers these days, I've been, an accessi on, receiving some... difficult letters! When experts in Chinese history write all these detailed critiques. All I can say is "What? Huh? I don't understand!" ☺ It doesn't matter what history books or other specialty books I've studied... when I read these letters, it's like my mind is a blank.
At the beginning, I was so intent on doing exhaustive research, but when I submitted my thoroughly researched stories to the publishers, they were all turned down! ☺ While on the job, I've learned that letters like these (complaining about accuracy) have nothing to do with whether the manga is interesting or not. I did read a bunch of books about the four gods (I don't understand them!), but as time went on, I stopped worrying so much about it. There are so many different stories that use the four gods! Every now and again I came across references to the 28 constellations, but there wasn't enough information there to write a story. ☆
I got a letter from a male fan saying, "It's important to build a sense of a wide world, but the overall quality of the book depends on whether you can captivate the reader. A manga or novel or movie must appeal not so much to the knowledge centers but instead to the emotional centers." That was his opinion. I agree. ☺ I've adopted quite a few of my readers' opinions and it's been a real education! I'm thankful for that. Although I'm sure that since *Fushigi Yûgi* is based on MY sense of a worldview, it must be distracting for some people...
Oh! Thanks for sending me your dôjinshi. They were so much fun! (I wonder if there'll be a lot more coming in...?) Hm... Why don't more of you guys send yours in? It's no fair to hog them all to yourselves! ☺ If you think, "The creator will get mad," well... there are a lot of different types of artists out there. And I'm not the type to get angry! I've seen racy books, and I'm fine with them! ☺ So just screw up your courage and send them! Even just one, send them on! I want to see the--
Ah! I'm going too far! Farewell everyone! *stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp!*

*What a weird manga-ka!* 95. 11 17

TAKA!! I WAS JUST WONDERING... HOW DO WE GET BACK TO OUR WORLD?
I'M A WOUNDED MAN!!
WE CAME HERE SEPARATELY... AND IF THIS ISN'T THE WORK OF SUZAKU, THEN WHO ELSE...?
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU DON'T HAVE YOUR WATCH ANYMORE!

I DON'T KNOW IF...
AND ANOTHER THING! WE CAN'T STAY HERE FOREVER WE GOTTA GO OUT AND SEARCH FOR MITSUKAKE AND CHIRIKO!
LU-HOU! WAKE UP, OKAY?
RUMMAGE

IT TURNED OUT GOOD. ALL THAT WORK PAID OFF!
NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
WE ARE DEAD, AFTER ALL
TAMA- HOME, ARE YOU BEING SARCASTIC ?
YUP!

WHAT YOU SAID BACK THEN... THAT WE HAD TO STAY ALIVE, BECAUSE ONE DAY WE'D LOOK BACK ON IT AND LAUGH...
...YOU TURNED OUT TO BE RIGHT, NURIKO.

WHAT'S PAST IS PAST!
I FOR- GOT!
ANCIENT HISTORY!
THIS IS GREAT! NOW WE ONLY HAVE THREE STONES LEFT TO FIND!
WA AA AA AA AH!
HEY, IT'S A LONG STORY!
I LIKE LONG STORIES! TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT!

...HE JUMPED FROM MY WATCH TO MY PAGER!?

RIGHT THEN...

BEEP

SUZAKU IS PRETTY RESOURCE-FUL... SO I GUESS MY PAGER IS ALSO LINKED UP TO HIM!

!!

THANK YOU, EVERY-ONE! WE'LL BE BACK!

!

IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING BACK HOME!

MIAKA! TAMA-HOME!



HEY !

TAKA !?

AH!

BUT... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I MEAN, THERE AREN'T ANY TELEPHONES IN THIS WORLD...

TAKA, YOU BROUGHT YOURS TOO!?

YEAH... IT WAS IN MY COAT POCKET ALL THIS TIME ...

Seek Me Out

IT CAN'T BE...

GRMP

MY PAGER ?

AS PRIESTESS, SHE'S DOING HER BEST TO PROTECT HER OWN WORLD.

HM?

THIS IS MY ROOM AT HOME! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HOTEL IN NIKKO?

THE SCROLL OF "THE UNIVERSE OF THE FOUR GODS" IS HERE ON YOUR DESK.

MIAKA!

THEN... MAYBE YOUR BROTHER GRABBED THE SCROLL... AND BROUGHT IT BACK WITH HIM?

AND HE MUST HAVE GONE HOME DIRECTLY AFTER WHAT HAPPENED IN NIKKO. *PRETTY WEIRD!*

WE UNDER-STAND!

TENKŌ NOW HAS THE POWER TO ELIMINATE DAICHI-SAN MOUNTAIN! BUT HE'S BEEN A LITTLE TOO QUIET RECENTLY! *NO DA!*

CHICHIRI?

HEY, YOU TWO...!

...I'M WORRIED THAT WE WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP YOU IN YOUR OTHER WORLD! YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFUL! *NO DA!*

I HOPE MY FEARS ARE GROUND-LESS, BUT...

IT IS TRUE, LU-HOU! SHE REMAINS OUR PRIESTESS, BUT RIGHT NOW SHE IS NOWHERE IN HONG-NAN...

HA!

THEY DISAPPEARED! IS IT REALLY TRUE THAT THE PRIESTESS OF SUZAKU COMES FROM A DIFFERENT WORLD...?

MARRY ME!

I WANT US TO BE MARRIED.

KOFF KOFF KOFF

MAKE UP MY HAIR?

...AND HAVE A FORMAL CEREMONY.

I WANT TO BE PROPERLY INTRO-DUCED TO BOTH OF YOUR PARENTS...

OF COURSE, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, I'D NEVER FORCE YOU INTO ANYTHING...

YOU HAVE SCHOOL AND EVERYTHING

...EVEN SO, YOU'RE WILLING TO TRUST ME...? TO STAND BY ME?

RIGHT NOW, I'M NOT REALLY A MAN OF YOUR WORLD, AND I DON'T REALLY BELONG IN THE WORLD OF THE BOOK EITHER... I'M SORT OF HALF WAY IN BETWEEN, BUT...

HM?

MIAKA...

NOD

ONCE WE'VE GATHERED THE STONES AND IT'S ALL OVER, WOULD YOU M... MA...

I WANTED TO SAY IT AFTER WE BOTH GRADUATED AND THINGS SETTLED DOWN, BUT I'VE CHANGED MY MIND. MIAKA...

THEN THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WANTING TO SAY FOR A LONG TIME...

...BUT IF WE CAN GET OUR FEELINGS ACROSS TO THEM, I BET THEY'LL UNDER-STAND.

I'M SURE PEOPLE WILL OBJECT, TELLING US THAT WE'RE TOO YOUNG...

NOW WE *HAVE* TO DO OUR BEST TO FIND THE LAST STONES!

IT'S OUR PROMISE TO EACH OTHER !

...TO MAKE OUR DREAMS COME TRUE!

THE END

I'D LIKE FOR US TO LIVE TOGETHER... ALWAYS BE TOGETHER... AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WOULD YOU BE AGAINST THAT?

YES... !!

I'M GOING TO BE A BRIDE! THIS TIME, IT'LL HAPPEN!

I'M SO HAPPY!

...OF *COURSE* I WANT THAT !!

SNIFF SNIFF

*WAAAAAAAAH!*

EXCUSE ME, I...

WHAT KIND OF CHILD WOULD *DO* THIS? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW WORRIED WE WERE!?

EH?

MOM?

... WHERE DID YOU RUN AWAY TO!?

WHERE ...

MIAKA!?

TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP

KEI-SUKE!!

MIAKA!

TAKA!!

YOU'RE ...

... MOM? DAD?

TRMBL

UH... UM... WE WERE JUST...

THIS IS BAD.

WHOOOOOSH

JUST GET THE HELL OUT!!

MOM, YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG! HE...

YOU WILL NEVER COME NEAR MY DAUGHTER AGAIN!! MIAKA, GET AWAY FROM HIM!

GET OUT !!

IT CAN'T BE!

TWO... MONTHS ?

YOU HAVE SOME NERVE! WHERE THE HELL DID YOU SPIRIT HER AWAY TO? SHE'S JUST A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, BUT DO YOU CARE? NO! YOU JUST...

HONEY, CALM DOWN!

MOTHER !!

...CART HER OFF TO GOD KNOWS WHERE FOR TWO WHOLE MONTHS!!

TAKA !!

MIAKA !!

POFF

...TAKA ?

WHEN WE WENT INTO THE SCROLL, IT WAS STILL SUMMER VACATION-- LATE JULY...

WE SENT OUT A SEARCH PARTY... BUT I'M GLAD YOU'RE BACK SAFE...

OCTOBER 10

"I'M SORRY. I KNOW I JUST JOINED YOUR CLUB, KEISUKE, BUT I'M LEAVING SCHOOL."

HE WOUNDED HER! HE BETRAYED YOU! I CAN'T COVER FOR A CREEP LIKE THAT!

"GOOD BYE!"

I'VE HAD IT UP TO HERE WITH YOUR "DEMONS" AND YOUR "STONES"! GIVE ME A BREAK, WILL YOU?

HE SLEPT WITH MIIRU KAMI-SHIRO !!

BESIDES, I DON'T *TRUST* TAKA ANYMORE. LISTEN, MIAKA...

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DO THAT!? SHOULD I TELL HER *EVERYTHING* THAT HAPPENED!? INCLUDING HOW TAKA IS OUT OF SOME BOOK? WHO'D BELIEVE ME!?

I WAS *SERIOUS* ABOUT HER! I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SAY!

KEISUKE! DON'T TALK LIKE THAT! SHE WAS A DEMON...



I FOUND THE SCROLL AFTER YOU DIS-APPEARED. I KNEW SOME-THING WAS UP!

AFTER I TALKED TO HER, I FIGURED YOU HAD GONE INSIDE THE SCROLL, SO I STARTED DOING RESEARCH ...

THEN TELL *MOM* ABOUT IT!!

KEISUKE, LET ME GO! IT ISN'T TAKA'S FAULT! HE WAS THE ONE WHO...

MIAKA!! I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM YUI!

TAKA !!

KACHAK

GRRRRR WL

WHY!?

HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?

YEAH, MOTHER ...

SORRY TO HAVE WORRIED YOU LIKE THAT.

IS IT BECAUSE SUZAKU'S POWERS AREN'T WORKING THAT WELL ANYMORE?

TAKA ...

"DO YOU HEAR ME, MIAKA? YOU ARE TO BREAK UP WITH HIM! I WILL NEVER ALLOW YOU TO GO NEAR THAT MAN AGAIN!"

We have some breaking news ...

A young woman's body, covered in blood, was discovered at about 7.30 tonight at a construct on site in the town of Tama

As the number of sim lar cases nears the 200 mark in only two months, the police are dedicating every man on the force to..

MIAKA !

GET BACK HERE! I HAVEN'T FINISHED WITH YOU YET!

ALL I KNOW IS THAT YOU BELIEVED IN ME! THAT WAS ALL I NEEDED!

TAKA ...!

IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN YOU SHOULD BE HERE! I'M NO GOOD WHEN YOU'RE AWAY! I HATE BEING APART FROM YOU!

I HATE IT, TAKA!!

I REMEMBER THAT WHEN HE CAME IN, I WAS IN THE NUDE...

I DON'T REMEMBER ANY OF WHAT HAPPENED, SO I COULDN'T DENY IT FOR SURE...

GASp

MI...

!?

JEEET

MIAKA !

TAKA !!

TAKA... TAKA, I'M... I'M SO SORRY! MY MOTHER, SHE...

HELLO !?

R R R R R

HUH?

...

CHEER UP, OKAY?

IT'S OKAY! I DON'T BLAME HER. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOUR MOTHER WAS REALLY ANGRY...

B-BUT... IT WAS AWFUL! EVEN KEISUKE... HE SAID THAT YOU AND MIIRU... SLEPT TOGETHER!

LONG TIME NO SEE, SUKU-NAMI!

MIIRU KAMI-SHIRO !!

YOU... WHAT'S WITH ALL THE BLOOD ?

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU MANAGED TO GET RID OF THE PARASITE DEMON I PUT IN YOU. YOU HAVE SOME SKILLS, HM?

BZZT BZZT

UNH !!

CHSSHT

SOME-THING HAPPENED TO HIM!

WHAT... !?

JEEET JEEET JEEET

TAKA...? TAKA !?!

I KNOW! HOW ABOUT IF YOU KILLED MIAKA YŪKI WITH YOUR OWN HANDS!? WHAT FUN THAT WOULD BE! HA HA HA!

...!?

YOU MON-STER!!

WE "MON-STERS" ARE JUST PEOPLE.

ZLIP

!?

BUT ENOUGH OF THAT. I'M HERE TO TAKE REVENGE FOR LIAN. IS IT PAINFUL TO YOU, NOT BEING ABLE TO MOVE? I'M CONTROLLING YOU WITH THIS DOLL. I CONTROLLED THAT PARASITE WITH IT TOO. NOW... WHAT GAME SHOULD WE PLAY?

A SACRIFICE TO MY LORD TENKŌ... AND TO LIAN...

THAT NEWS REPORT... THAT WAS YOU?

THE TOWN OF TAMA PROVIDED ME WITH A MEAL... A YOUNG HIGH-SCHOOL GIRL, JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

HA HA HA! YOU THOUGHT YOU *SLEPT* WITH ME? AFTER I WAS FINISHED, I HEALED YOUR WOUNDS. IT WAS SILLY OF ME TO FORGET THE WOUND ON YOUR EAR...

I TOOK BLOOD FROM EACH PART OF YOUR BODY.

SEE THIS? I MADE IT USING YOUR BLOOD.

LIAN!?

AND I WILL DEDICATE MY LIFE TO PROTECTING MIAKA !

I LOVE MIAKA !

I LIVE AS A MAN OF THIS WORLD FOR HER SAKE!

HUFF HUFF

HEH!

!?

FFT

YOUR CHI? DID YOU JUST SEND YOUR CHI AT IT !?

HOW!? YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY OF SUZAKU'S POWERS!

YOU'RE NOT NORMAL... YOU AREN'T EVEN FULLY HUMAN !!

MY DOLL ...!!

EYAAH H!

グォォォォ

TAKA ...?

GASP

TENKŌ !?

TAKA!!

TAKA ...!

TO BE CONTINUED IN *VOLUME 17: DEMON*

TENKO!!

AAHH!

## The Fushigi Yûgi Guide to Sound Effects

Most of the sound effects in FUSHIGI YÛGI are the way Yuu Watase created them, in their original Japanese.

We created this glossary for a page-by-page, panel by-panel explanation of the action and background noises. By using this guide, you may even learn some Japanese.

The glossary lists page and panel number. For example, page 1, panel 3, would be listed as 1 3.

31.3 FX: ZA ZA (stomping)
31.5 FX: MUKI (clothing being peeled away)
32.1 FX: JIIIN (glaring)
32.5 FX: DAN (jumping)
33.4 FX: HYUUUUUU (wind)
34.2 FX: HA (sudden realization)
34.3 FX: SHULULULU (unrolling)
36.4 FX: ZAWA ZAWA (background chatter)
37.4 FX: HYUUU (wind)
37.6 FX: SUUU (disappearing)
38.1 FX: SUUU (disappearing)
40.1 FX: DOKUN (heavy heartbeat)
40.2 FX: GYU (holding tight)
47.3 FX: NIKO (grin)

7.1 FX: KA (flash)
7.4 FX: SUUUU (build up of energy)
7.5 FX: KA (flash of light)
8.2 FX: KA (flash)
11.1 FX: NUUUJN (intense disapproving stare)
14.2 FX: ZAWA (background chatter)
14.3 FX: ZAWA (background chatter)
14.4 FX: ZAWA (background chatter)
19.3 FX: DA (running)
19.5 FX: BAN (opening the door)
20.2 FX: BAN (crashing through the door)
21.4 FX: HA (sudden realization)
22.5 FX: ZUDADA (falling)
23.2 FX: GUSHA (crunching sound)
23.3 FX: GA (pulling hair)
24.1 FX: ZA (stepping)
24.2 FX: DOKUN DOKUN DOKUN DOKUN (heavy heartbeats)
24.6 FX: SU (movement)
25.3 FX: TO (landing)
25.4 FX: SHARA (jingle)
26.1 FX: GRASHA (crunching)
26.2 FX: PARA (clatter)
26.4 FX: GUGU (grinding)
28.3 FX: KI (anger)
30.1 FX: DOKA (breaking in)
30.2 FX: DOSA (sudden movement)
30.3 FX: HA (breaking the spell)

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Yuu Watase was born on March 5 in a town near Osaka, Japan, and she was raised there before moving to Tokyo to follow her dream of creating manga. In the decade since her debut short story, *Pajama De Ojama* ("An Intrusion in Pajamas"), she has produced more than 50 compiled volumes of short stories and continuing series. Her latest work, *Zettai Kareshi* ("Absolute Boyfriend"), has recently completed its run in Japan in the anthology magazine *Shôjo Comic*. Watase's other beloved series *Ceres: Celestial Legend*, *Imadoki! (Nowadays)*, and *Alice 19th* are now available in North America in English editions published by VIZ Media.

125.1 FX: ZAZA (violent rustling)
125.2 FX: SHA (hissing)
126.2 FX: HIHIIIN (whinnying)
128.2 FX: BA (gushing)
130.2 FX: GABA (pulling off)
132.4 Note: Tasuki's joke in Japanese was, "The bedding (futon) flew away (futtonda)."
134.2 FX: YORO (wobble)
137.4 FX: PON (sweat appearing)
139.5 FX: KATA KATA (shivering)
140.2 FX: IRA IRA IRA (worry)
141.1 FX: KA (rushing)
142.3 FX: BAN (bang)
144.1 FX: BYUN (zooming past)
145.2 FX: GYU (gripping)
145.4 FX: BAN (bam)
146.5 FX: GUI (grabbing)
149.4 FX: MUKU (lifting his head)
149.5 FX: GU (holding)
150.1 FX: SU (movement)

87.3 FX: U U (sniffles)
89.3 FX: NI (smile)
89.4 FX: SU (slight movement)
89.5 FX: KIII (door creaking)
91.1 FX: BASHI (a hit)
92.4 FX: BATAN (door slamming)
94.3 FX: SHARA (fidgeting)
94.5 FX: HA (sudden realization)
95.2 FX: GU (gripping)
95.4 FX: KA (flash of light)
96.4 FX: HA (sudden realization)
97.2 FX: KYU (clench)
100.1 FX: GI GI GI (electricity)
101.1 FX: PIN (stretching taught)
106.4 FX: ZAWA ZAWA (background noise)
107.1 FX: SO (placing the stone)
108.2 FX: TON TON (footsteps on the stairs)
108.3 FX: KYU (tightening)
108.4 FX: DOKI (heartbeat)
109.2 FX: GAKUN (powerful flinch)
110.1 FX: HOO (shining)
110.3 FX: SU (appearing)
112.1 FX: NYA (smiling)
112.2 FX: KIII (door creaking open)
113.1 FX: DOOOO (dramatic appearance)
113.2 FX: DOKAN (falling down)
115.3 FX: DO (explosive movement)
116.2 FX: ZUBA (slashing)
116.3 FX: SHAAA (hissing)
116.4 FX: BATA BATA BATA (footsteps)
117.1 FX: SHU (fast movement)
117.2 FX: DO (sudden stop)
118.2 FX: GATA GATA (trembling)
119.4 FX: FOOOOON (howling)
119.4 FX: ON ON ON (howling)
120.5 FX: DA (running)

68.3 FX: KACHA (door latch)
69.1 FX: KACHA (picking up receiver)
69.6 FX: DA (running)
70.3 FX: HAA HAA HAA (panting)
71.1 FX: YORO (wobble)
71.3 FX: TOSA (hitting the ground)
71.6 FX: BAN (pounding)
72.1 FX: KA (flash)
72.2 FX: SUUU (disappearing)
72.4 FX: NYA (smile)
72.5 FX: FU (vanished)
74.1 FX: FU (vanishing)
74.3 FX: KAPPO KAPPO (hoof sounds)
75.2 FX: KAPPO KAPPO (hoof sounds)
76.4 FX: PACHI (blink)
76.5 FX: GABA (rising suddenly)
77.2 FX: ZAWA ZAWA (rustling)
79.3 FX: ZAWA ZAWA (wind rustling)
79.5 FX: BAN (slamming the table)
80.3 FX: SU (sudden appearance)
80.6 FX: BAN (slam)
81.2 FX: ZAWA ZAWA (crowd noises)
82.1 Note: Tasuki's joke was, "A crab (kani) who apologizes gets forgiveness (kannin)." Not the best of puns.
84.2 Small Sign: Chao ("Cho" in Japanese. It means "ultra" but is most likely a family name)
84.2 Large Sign: Nanpandaichao ("Nanbandaicho" in Japanese. It means "south, platter, large, and ultra" but is most likely just fortuitous Chinese characters strung together to make a shop name.)
85.3 FX: FU (lit incense)
85.5 FX: SHIIIIIN (silence)
87.1 FX: KYAA KYAA (happy squeals)

47.6 FX: ZAAAA (shower sounds)
48.3 FX: BURU BURU BURU (shaking head)
49.1 FX: GISHI (drying with towel)
49.2 FX: PIKU PIKU (veins popping out)
53.2 FX: BASA (flap)
53.3 FX: FUU (vanishing)
53.4 FX: BASA (flap)
56.3 FX: BASA (flap)
56.4 FX: SU (vanishing)
57.1 FX: SHUWA SHUWA SHUWA (leaves fluttering)
58.1 FX: HAA HAA (panting)
58.5 FX: PAMU (plopping into his hand)
59.1 FX: BURU BURU (trembling)
60.5 FX: SAWA (wind through his hair)
60.6 FX: SAWA SAWA (wind rustling)
63.4 FX: DOKI DOKI (heartbeats)
64.1 FX: ZAAA (unscrolling)
65.1 FX: GASHI (grabbing)
66.1 FX: DOSA (hitting the floor)
67.3 FX: TSU (sucking)
68.2 FX: PASHA PASHA (splashing sounds)

# Hell Hath No Fury Like a Heavenly Maiden

When an angel named Ceres is reincarnated in 16-year-old Aya Mikage, Aya becomes a liability to her family's survival. Not only does Ceres want revenge against the Mikage family for past wrongs, but her power is also about to manifest itself. Can Aya control Ceres' hold on her, or will her family mark her for death?

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169.2 FX: KA (flash of light)
171.4 FX: GYU (gripping)
172.4 FX: GABA (hugging)
173.1 FX: GORON (twirl)
175.4 FX: KI (anger)
175.5 FX: PAN (a slap)
176.5 FX: UU UU (crying)
177.1 FX: KI (anger)
183.4 FX: HA (realization)
184.4 FX: ULULULULU (growling)
185.1 FX: ZUZU ZUZU ZU…
(shape shifting)
187.5 FX: KA (concentration)
188.1 FX: BAN (bang)
188.2 FX: BARA BARA
(breaking into pieces)
188.3 FX: SU (flowing)
190.3 FX: DOO (explosion)
191.1 FX: ZUUUU (burning)
191.2 FX: GOOOO (roaring fire)

150.2 FX: BIKU (surprise)
150.3 FX: GYU (clenching)
151.1 FX: BI-BIKU (flinching back)
152.2 FX: BIKU (flinch)
152.4 FX: HA (gasp)
152.2 FX: GIRIRI (grinding)
154.1 FX: GYU (holding tight)
154.3 FX: ZURU (something slurped in)
155.1 FX: SHAAA
(rising up, taking shape)
155.2 FX: DOO (explosive movement)
159.4 FX: SU (movement)
161.4 FX: BOHYU (flames)
163.2 FX: BOHYUU (flames)
163.4 FX: KAAAAA (light shining)
164.3 FX: PON (clap)
165.1 FX: HATA (sudden realization)
167.3 FX: KAAAAA (light)
168.3 FX: SUUU (vanishing)
168.4 FX: BISHUN (vanishing in light)

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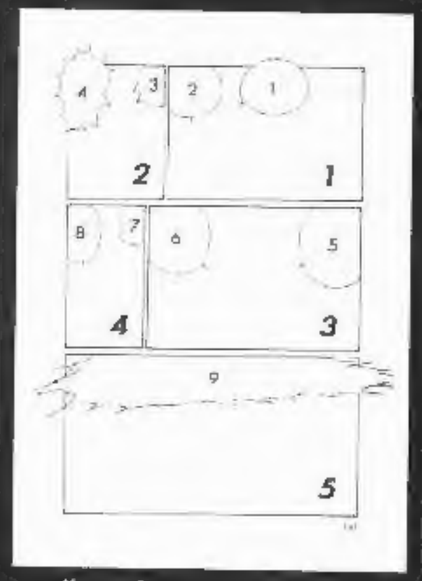


Follow the action this way

This book has been printed in the original Japanese format in order to preserve the orientation of the original artwork. Have fun with it!

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**(please check one from each column)**

| SHOJO MANGA | VIZ SHOJO MANGA |
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☐ Romance ☐ Drama / conflict ☐ Fantasy
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